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President Suharto, seated among his generals at a conference Thursday in Jakarta. At his left were General Feisal Tanjung and General Wiranto.

dy names almost sureal and Suharto Tells Military To Take 'Stern Action' strong transition to the ma-directionary at the Berling's security, noted a similar place teners in Contrasty. Young a few are doing early place her their of the Stockyards, who

Food Rioting Spreads to Western Java Town

By Seth Mydans New York Times Service

JAKARTA — President Suharto told the military Thursday to "take stern action" against bis opponents as tensions rise in Indonesia before his expected confirmation next month for a new term in office.

'The political temperature across the nation is rising," fueled by increasing economic hardships, Mr. Suharto said. "In this situation, there are signs that certain groups are using this as a chance to achieve their political goals,'

He did not elaborate, but recent weeks have seen an increase both in food riots in provincial towns and small, peaceful political demonstrations in the capital. On Wednesday, the police cracked down for the first time on a demonstration

here, detaining about 140 people.
[Hundreds of rioters protesting higher food prices threw rocks and hurned Chinese-owned shops Thursday in the western Java town of Jatiwangi, The Associated Press reported from Jakarta. At least 13 shores were humed and 30 others damaged in the four-hour melee 260 kilometers (160 miles) east of Jakarta. Sixteen people were arrested.]

Addressing a conference of military leaders Thursday, Mr. Suharto said, act unconstitutionally, especially any actions that could lead to national dis-

The military conference announced the expected promotion of General Wiranto, the army chief of staff, to chief of the armed forces. Like many Indonesians, he uses only one name.

are united in support of Mr. Suharto, and both General Wiranto and the man he replaces. General Feisal Tanjung, are seen as reliable backets.

After 32 years in power, analysts say, Mr. Suharto's grip on the country is as firm as ever, despite spreading malaise and an economic crisis that is causing

bankruptcies, job losses and price rises. With the country's political opposition weak and fragmented, Mr. Suharto appears to feel free to pursue his own political scenario. In the face of op-position both from large portions of In-donesia's political elite and from foreign investors who gauge the nation's stability, his political party has issued a new hint that he might name a controversial aide next month as vice president.

The governing party. Golkar, announced late Wednesday that in addition to its own party leader, Harmoko, it would back B.J. Habibie, the research and technology minister, for vice president. A second of the three officially sanctioned parties also hinted that Mr. Habibie would be one of its candidates.

Mr. Habibie, a longtime confidant of the president's, is widely criticized as brilliant but eccentric, a man whose unconventional economic notions and extravagant projects would make him seem an unreliable heir apparent. When Mr. Suharto floated his name

for the position a month ago, the rupiah fell to its lowest point in six months. No Indonesian vice president has

served more than one term. But the incumbent. Try Satrisno, a former military commander, is the most frequently named competitor to Mr. Habibie. Mr. Suharto bas said he will announce

his choice for vice president next month, when a 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly that is dominated by his supporters is expected to name him to a seventh five-year term.

With little doubt remaining that Mr. guessing-game has emerged here over his choice of vice president.

"All the analysts are waiting for the vice president to be named." said Wimar Wiroelar, a prominent political commentator. "But the name of the vice president is not important. I don't want to waste my time thinking about it. It's just a symbolic position."

Mr. Suharto has every intention of serving out his term, be said, and even if he dies or is incapacitated, someone other than the vice president could succeed.

One Western analyst, who asked not to be identified, said there were two possible succession scenarios. Either the vice president would finish out the term of office or the People's Consultative Assembly would reconvene to work out the succession.

'In politics, the Indonesians are very strict about following the rules," the analyst said. "But they have a lot of rules to choose from.

Moscow Scolds U.S. on Iraq Policy Defense Chief Tells Cohen of 'Deep Concern' for Relations

By Steven Lee Myers New York Times Service

MOSCOW -- Russia's defense minister, Igor Sergeyev, sharply criticized the United States on Thursday for its threats to attack Iraq, warning the American defense secretary, William Cohen, that a strike could undercut efforts to improve ties between the two nations' militaries.

Speaking bluntly at the beginning of a meeting focused on arms control and other security issues, Mr. Sergeyev said Russia felt "deep concern" about the prospect of an American-led attack and accused the

Clinton administration of moving 100 hastily.

"Is America ready for all the possible consequences?" Mr. Sergeyev told Mr. Cohen, departing from the diplomatic niceties that normally characterize opening remarks at meetings like these. "Does the uncompromising and tough position of the United States on Iraq help to strengthen stability and security

President Boris Yeltsin and other senior Russian officials have strongly criticized the Clinton administration's threat to use force to make Suddam Hussein comply with United Nations resolutions requiring Iraq to dismantle its biological and chemical weapons programs. Last week, Mr. Yeltsin said an attack could lead to world war.

Mr. Cohen and his aides played down Mr. Sergeyev's remarks, suggesting that they were meant as much for public consumption as for Mr. Cthen's

This time, the U.S. Navy gets its chance. • The Iraqi opposition in disarray, • The UN has an idea. • Gulf states rebuke Irag. Page 7.

delegation. Mr. Cohen appeared to be taken aback by the blummess of the rebuke, but after emerging from the meeting two and half hours later, he said his discussions with Mr. Sergeyev had "a good opening and a great closing."

A senior American aide said that once television

cameras and journalists left the room, Mr. Sergeyev quickly turned from differences over Iraq to issues involving NATO's expansion and the prospects of ratifying the second strategic nuclear reduction treaty, or START-2.

Nevertheless, Mr. Sergeyev's remarks reflected the sharp division between Russia and the United States over how to respond to Mr. Saddam's defiance of the weapons inspections. It was the first time a Russian minister had delivered what amounted to a lecture sitting face to face with an American counterpart.

■ U.S. Is 'Proceeding Cautiously'

Mr. Cohen took notes as he listened to the Russian defense minister's opening remarks and then rebutted Mr. Sergeyev's criticisms, wire services reported.

President Clinton has exercised great caution in not making haste quickly but rather proceeding cau-tiously and with great prudence," Mr. Cohen said. "You properly raised the question of what are the possible consequences of acting militarily. It is equally appropriate to ask the question. What if we fail to act and allow Saddam to continue to flout the UN resolutions, to continue to play hide-and-seek with the inspectors?

Later, at a news conference after the private part of the meeting, the Russian said his country's main fear

See IRAQ, Page 9



LEADING THE WAY - Ilya Kulik of Russia finishing first in the Olympic figure skating short program. With high marks for artistry, the tiebreaker in the long program, he is likely to win. Page 22.

 Bjorn Dahlic of Norway becomes the first man to win six Winter
 get to keep his gold medal on a legal technicality. Page 23. Olympic gold medals. Page 22.

 A Canadian snowboarder who tested positive for marijuana will

 Snow, fog, wind and beavy rain in Nagano delays two more Olympic ski races. Page 23.

are covered by executive privilege. Mr.

Clinton's lawyers contended that he

cannot conduct the business of the pres-

idency without assurance that he can

The White House has tried to put

some distance between its concerns

over Mr. Starr's investigation and the

dispute over whether the Secret Service

should be compelled to testify. Michael

McCurry, the White House press sec-

retary, said White House lawyers had

called their counterparts at the Justice

See AGENTS, Page 9

talk in confidence to his top aides.

Russian-Iraqi Evasion Of Sanctions Suspected

By R. Jeffrey Smith Nushington Post Service

WASHINGTON — United Nations inspectors in Iraq uncovered last fall what they considered highly unsettling evidence of a 1995 agreement by the Russian government to sell Iraq sophisticated fermentation equipment that could be used to develop biological weapons, according to sources.

A confidential document prepared by

Iraqi officials and seized by a UN inspection team at a government ministry described lengthy negotiations leading to a deal worth millions of dollars, in-cluding discussions that took place roughly six months after Iraq's purchase of other hiological materials aroused suspicion that Baghdad was concealing an immense germ warfare program, the sources continued.

Moscow has not replied to a UN request six weeks ago for information about the deal, which included n 5,000liter (1,300-gallon) fermentation vessel protein for animal feed. As a result, the inspectors are uncertain if Iraq received the equipment. The vessel is 10 times larger than the largest one Iraq has admined using to

brew an arsenal of deadly germs.

The transaction would have violated a UN-authorized embargo on sales to lraq of such sensitive materials, the sources said.

"It's dual-purpose equipment," one source said, "That's exactly what you would need for a large-scale biological

[A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Gennadi Tarasov, dismissed the report, according to Reuters, which quoted him as saying Thursday in Moscow: "We decisively deny these crude inventions. Russia has never made any deals with Iraq that would violate international sanctions, moreover deals involving supplies of banned technologies.

[He said that a UN request for information was sent "on Feb. 8, not six weeks ago" and that the Russians had learned of it only Thursday.

[Agence France-Presse reported that

See RUSSIA, Page 9

Europe's Stance on Iraq: A Patchwork of Attitudes **National Roles Outweigh a Unified Approach**

By John Vinocur

PARIS - In dealing with the current Iraq crisis, Europe has responded with a series of individual, national positions cut off from much practical coordination and a far cry from the community's ideal of a unified European foreign

yet, fragment by fragment, variation after special situation, a general set of attitudes, as opposed to a unified approach, has emerged. The countries of the European Union will

provide the basic logis-**NEWS ANALYSIS** tical support the United States wants if it decides to attack Sad-

dam Hussein, while accepting, if not all endorsing on the same note, the use of force as a justified response to Iraq's refusal to heed the United Nations' ininctions on weapons inspections. In the end, and with its own nuances, France, which has been reluctant to sup-

port a military intervention, is expected to move into a roughly compatible position, according to a European official who closely follows the situation. The effect would be a patcby, uneven fabric that would have to pass as the European stance, considering what the official said was the absence at the highest level of any serious discussion of a coordinated European approach. The continuing reality, bowever,

would be that of a Europe unable to provide an alternative to either the positions of Mr. Saddam or the U.S. pres-

Europe will bave again demonstrated that in maners of war and crinical elements of relations with the United States, national considerations make joint policy unlikely. Whatever concessions of identity are involved in establishing a common currency, they do not operate at a depth comparable with the pull of Britain's feeling about its special trans-Atlantic des, the French desire for distance from the Americans and prox-

and Germany's complex bonds to both the United States and Israel. In fact, none of the particular instincts of the three leading European players translates into leadership positions on

imity to the Arab world,

foreign policy that the other countries can easily rally around. in continental Europe, for example. there are almost no reflexes comparable to the ones that have brought Britain. which currently holds the presidency of

the European Union, into active cooperation with the United States on planning an attack on Iraq. This side of Calais, there is no place that could go along with the public opinion sampling in Britain this week that gave strong

See ALLIES, Page 9

Starr's Tactics Anger Actors in Clinton Drama 'Ugly' Questions for Lewinsky's Mother

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky was returning to Washington on Thursday ready to testify before a grand jury hut angered by questioning of her mother that appeared to have left the elder woman so distraught that her third appearance before the jury was delayed.

Ms. Lewinsky is "very angry" about her mother's questioning, said her law-yer, William Ginsburg. "It's not nice, it's ugly, and all Americans should take note of how far they're going in this prosecution.

The jarring spectacle of a mother being compelled to testify against her daughter appeared likely to increase the sense among a majority of Americans, as reflected by opinion polls, that the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, has overstepped the boundaries of reasonable investigation.

Mr. Starr was authorized Jan. 16 to

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investigate allegations that President Bill Clinton had an 18-month affair with Ms. Lewinsky and then sought to influence her to lie about it. Mr. Starr has defended his tactics,

which he said were necessary in investigating "credible evidence of serious federal crimes." The allegations against

Americans are disgusted with the media. • Starr pressures key Whitewater witness. Page 3.

Mr. Clinton include perjury, subornation to perjury and obstruction of

Ms. Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, spent more than four bours before the grand jury on Wednesday. Appearing confident and upbeat when she first entered the courthouse the day before, she was so drained by late af-

See CLINTON, Page 9

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Are Secret Service Agents Privileged?

By David E. Sanger and John M. Broder New York Times Service

WASHINGTON -- Prosecutors investigating President Bill Clinton's relationship with a former White House intern have subpoenaed members of the Secret Service, setting np a new confrontation with the Whitewater independent counsel over the Clinton administration's desire to restrict the testimony of close aides and the Secret Service.

Government officials confirmed that the subpoenas had been issued to the Secret Service, but it remained unclear whether the independent counsel, Kenneth Start, was seeking the testimony of agents currently or formerly assigned to

r. Clinton's protective detail. [A current Secret Service officer is under subpoena, according to a senior government official who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The subpoena went to a uniformed patrol officer stationed at the White Honse, not a member of the personal detail that has greatest access to the president, according to the offi-

The Secret Service has challenged any effort to force Mr. Clinton's bodyguards to testify, arguing that it would compromise their ability to protect the president. The Treasury Department, which oversees the Secret Service, has been negotiating with Mr. Start to try to avert a court battle over the issuance of

subpoenas. Mr. Starr has rejected White House claims that certain conversations between Mr. Clinton and his close advisers

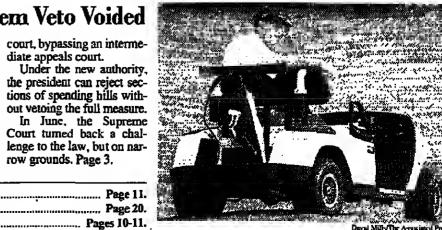
AGENDA

Clinton Line-Item Veto Voided

A federal judge declared court, bypassing an interme-President Bill Clinton's diate appeals court. Under the new authority, constitutional on Thursday, setting the stage for a Supreme Court test over the power that Congress ceded to the president in 1996.

The law provides for a speedy appeal to the high row grounds. Page 3.

Page 11. Page 20. Crossword... Pages 10-11. Opinion . Sports .. Pages 20-23.



WINNING A ROUND - Casey Martin, a disabled American golfer, won a suit against the PGA Tour to allow him to use a motorized cart during tournaments in which they are forbidden. Page 20.

This Time, Peru Strives to Defy El Niño

the natioo that first spoke its name.

Scientists have flocked here to observe its

effects. Rains have turned Peru's largest desert

into an instant Eden, where flamingos wade in

pools of water; prairie grass and brilliant wild

nothing but dunes and scruh; higher ocean tem-

peratures - about 5 degrees centigrade (9 de-

grees Fahrenheit) above oormal oear the coast

for sea lions and gulls, whose carcasses now

- bave driven away fish that had provided food

El Niñn has scrubbed away parts of the Nazca

the desert oear here. In some towns, people are

By Anthony Faiola

CA, Peru - In the debris that stretches for blocks in this flooded desert city, there once stood a shantytown called Hope. Elsa Apasa, standing next to a pile of sticks where her home used to be, spoke of the leveled oeighborhood as a poor but kind place where adobe stores sold sodas and candy and friendly oeighbors held all-night fiestas in their palmcovered shacks.

But that was before El Niño pounded this city of 275,000 last week.

We woke up in hell — or at least some kind of bad movie," said Mrs. Apasa, 37, whose four children were playing nearby in muck — a perverse novelty in this normally parched city.

Ica, four hours south of Lima by car, lies in Peru's coastal desert region, where in an average year there is hardly any measurable rainfall. Today, the city has been so thoroughly devastated by freakish floods that an estimated

120,000 people are homeless.

The river banks broke, and the water poured out in currents," Mrs. Apasa said. "It carried me down for blocks until I hit the wall of the school. I was screaming for my children. Every-one was screaming." She began crying. "We had a neighborhood here, but now we have a hunch of rocks and sticks.

The desperation in Ica ooderscores the reality that this nation is "ground zero" of the at-mospheric phenomenon known as El Niño, which is triggered by an immense patch of warm water in the Pacific Ocean that shifts toward the Peruvian coast every few years and affects weather patterns worldwide.

This winter, El Niño has been blamed for torrential rains in California, a crippling ice storm in Canada, scorching heat in Brazil and a Washington winter virtually without the control of the control o



left, who is an engineer, declared all-out war on El Niño, traveling six days a week to oversee the government's response to

President Alberto Fujimori,

the weather phenomenon. Preparations included a revamped drainage system for Tombes, right, parts of which were under water for eight months after the 1983 El Niño; this year, most floodwater in the northern city receded in less than four days.

have run its course, El Niñn 1998 has already

have been destroyed nr flooded.

coast," said Michael Glantz, senior scientist at around Christmas. For the most superstitious highest rated programs on radin and televisinn. here, El Niño appears to be seeking revenge nn Experts say El Niño this year is even more the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who just returned from a destructive than the vicious one of 1983, when survey of Peru. "We've got a world right now where everybody is blaming everything—plane hundreds of Peruvians died and the nation's economic natput plummeted 13 perceot. With crashes, freak storms - on El Niño, and often three months to go before scientists expect it to they're wrong. But oot in Peru. What's hap-pening there is happening because of El Niño."

missiog, and hundreds of thousands of homes HE PERUVIAN government, taking strict control of the crisis in the point of Mud slides on the Pan American Highway criticism from emergency aid groups, is and other main arteries have made it difficult to trying hard to spare the nation the kind get food to cities, increasing prices in a country of long-lasting economic suffering it witnessed after 1983. Indeed, President Alberto Fujimori where about 50 percent of the people live below the poverty line. Outbreaks of chniera and other has declared all-out war oo El Niño, traveling Lines, immense and ancient figures scrawled in | flood-spawned illnesses are being reported in six days a week to oversee the government's various areas, according to the Peruvian Red

bassador's residence in April.

"I will not accept that you can't fight El Niño," Mr. Fujimori said in an interview. "We will oot only fight it, we will beat it."

Almost everyone here says that without Mr. Fojimori's preparations, the damage would be magnitudes worse. The president, who is an engineer, mathematician and former university professor, began an infrastructure program in August that completely revamped drainage systerns in such northern cities as Piura and Tumbes, which suffered the greatest devastation in 1983. Back then, parts of Tumbes were under water for eight months; this year, most floodwater in the city receded in less than four days. In the oewly lush desert regions, the gov-

ernment is planting trees and building irrigation Peruvian fishermen were the ones who coined the term El Niñn — or "the boy-child" — because it often begins to manifest itself — because it often begins to manifest itself — because it often begins to manifest itself — as a week to obtain the relation that Peru is at ground ings to levels out seen since he ordered an nation, where weather reports have become the nation of the nat

Aviation Groups Pick Top Problems

By Don Phillips

WASHINGTON - Airlines, aviation manufacturers and the major U.S. pilots union for the first time agreed to push for a commoo air-safety agenda that they said they hoped would coocentrate resources oo solutions that would save the most lives.

Officials in the coalition said Wednesday that it was clear that hy far the greatest threat to airline passengers worldwide comes from cockpit crews who fly perfectly good airplanes into the ground or somehow lose control in flight. But in a media-driven age, they said, government regulators sometimes force airlines and manufacturers to spend resources on fixes of marginal value.

Rather than chase every "issue du inur" after crashes, the world would be better served by concentrating on a sbort list of "low-hanging fruit" in aviation safety, the officials said. They listed enhanced pilot training, oew on-board navigation and collisioo-avoidance devices, fire-retardant cabin materials, turbulence injury prevention, new-gen-eration child restraints, reduced maintenance errors, ways to preveot engine explosions and better safety data.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration sent officials to a news conference to endorse the industry-unioo effort, which includes the major

Common Safety Issues **Could Speed Solutions**

manufacturers Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie, all major engine manufacturers, the Air Line Pilots Association, the Aerospace Industries Associatioo and major airlines through the Air Transport Association.

The group, calling itself the Commercial Aviation Safety Strategy Team, spent a year hammering out its agenda, oominally aimed at reducing accideot rates 80 perceot in the next decade as recommended by the commission on aviation safety headed by Vice President A. Carrier of the commission of the com ident Al Gore.

Hanging over the aviatioo safety initiative is the fear in the industry that eveo maintaining the current low crash rate, the oumber of crashes will rise as the number of planes in the air grows. Boeing has estimated that if the accident rate is not dramatically decreased there will be a crash a week worldwide hy 2015 — including an average of seven to nine a year in the United States, which has oever had more than seven major crashes in ooe year and often has nooe.

The U.S. accideot rate in the 1987-1996 decade was 0.5 major accidents

per million departures, compared with 0.7 for Western Europe, 4.8 for Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union, 5.7 for Latin America and 13 for Africa.

Officials noted that despite the low incidence of aviatioo deaths in the United States - compared with automobiles or even accidental electrocution — the public pays atteotion to crashes. After a crash, public perception of aviatioo safety dips and government rushes in to satisfy public concern.

flowers are blooming where once there was killed 112 Peruvians. At least 80 more are

Mike Rioux, senior vice president of the Air Transport Association, said this led to "knee-jerk" reactions that lead regulators to "jump to the next issue du jour." These issues may be desirable, he said, but they take time and staff away from the issues that could save far more

Asked to name these less-critical issues, Mr. Rioux mentiooed: requiring heart defibrilators oo aircraft, enhanced cahin air quality, and some security matters such as 100 perceot bag match.

One example of a media-driven safety campaign offered by officials was the one that followed the ValuJet crash into the Everglades in 1995. The crash killed 110 people and focused attention on smoke and fire safety systems in cargo holds. Mr. Ríoux said such initiatives "are the right thing to do," hut they shouldn't demand so many resources because they rarely cause deaths. Material distributed

by the group showed that the ValuIct crash was the only fatal crash caused by a cargo fire in the 1987-1996 decade.

During the same period, 2,396 people died in crashes classified as "cootrolled flight into terrain," 312 of them oo U.S.

Crash in Italy Kills 4

PADUA, Italy - Four persons were killed and at least 50 injured Thursday in a pile-up involving 250 vehicles oo a foggy stretch of high-way in oortheastern Italy, the police

The crash occurred on the A-13 highway betweeo Padua and Rovigo. The police said visibility was less than 60 meters (200 feet) at

the time. Televisioo pictures showed scores of crumpled and humed cars. Some were still afire. Others had plunged down a grass bank into

"There are four people dead," a police spokesman said. Some victims were reported to have burned

airlines. Soch crashes are almost always caused by human error, with a fit aircraft remaining in control literally until it hits the ground. Another 2,221 people died in crashes attributed to loss of cootrol in flight, 482 of them oo U.S. airlines. Loss-of-control crashes are also often human-caused.

Those two types of crashes were by far the greatest aviation killers between 1987 and 1996. The next-greatest killer, sab-otage, is a distant third, with 607 deaths. One statistic developed by the group il-lustrates how the United States can solve an aviation problem that still plagues the rest inf the world. There were no U.S. airline deaths from midair collisions

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Chaos in Sierra Leone Capital

Residents Trapped Between Nigerian Force and Junta Soldiers

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone's capital slid into anarchy on Thursday as Nigerian-led regional troops battling the country's ruling junta closed in on the city ceoter, witnesses

Hundreds of thousands of civilians were caught between battling forces in the besieged city, facing artillery bom-bardmeots, looting and a critical short-age of food and medical supplies.

Resideots said many junta soldiers and former rebels allied to them had taken off their uniforms as the army's command and cootrol appeared to be breaking down. Civilians were reported beheaded at roadblocks mounted by pro-junta youths.

There has been on official word for days from the Armed Forces Ruling Cooncil, led by Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Paul Koromah. His own where-

abonts remained onclear. Mortar shells rained in oo several parts of the capital as thousands of desperate civilians ran the gantlet of marauding pro-junta youths to seek shelter

in the oanooal stadium. The medical charity Doctors Without Borders said that its surgical team in Connaught Hospital had treated 122

people since shelling increased Wednesday night. Twelve had since died. About 5,000 people who fled earlier fighting in the eastern outskirts of the city and had no relatives on the west side were gathered in the national stadium.

An additional 400 civilians sought

shelter in the compound of the International Committee of the Red Cross. aid workers said.

"The situation is extremely had," said a Red Cross spokesman, Michael Kleiner, speaking by telephone from He called on soldiers from both sides

to spare civilian lives. "Uoder inter-

national humanitarian law," he said, "this is clearly a situation that should not happen. Civilians are being caught up in the fighting."

Mr. Kleiner said a large majority of

the city's estimated 700,000 residents were trapped between the battling A Nigerian-led West African interventioo force has been advancing oo the

city since red. 5, uy junta and return the elected president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, to power. Late Wednesday night, according to a pirate radio statioo loval to Mr. Kabbah, Nigerian soldiers penetrated the city, taking cootrol of Freetown's main port

and a ferry terminal. Despite some lulls in the fighting, small arms and artillery fire and aircraft bombing raids continued Thursday.

Civilians fleeing bombardments faced more danger from youths armed with daggers, machetes and clubs spiked with nails who searched for "enemies" at checkpoints across the city.

"Several people have been beheaded at checkpoints," one resident said by telephone. "It's a nightmare out (Reuters. AP)



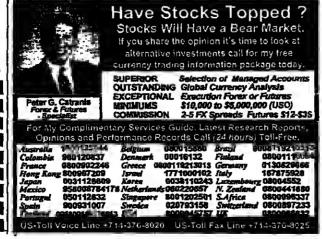
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DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Renters) - Emirates Air-

around the world starting next week. It said the Dubai Department of Immigration had authorized

emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates federation.

noe of the country's leading fly-cruise operators, Thomson

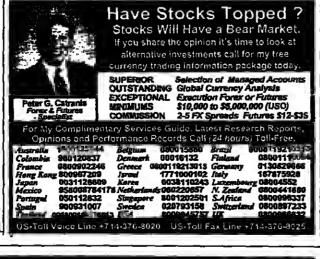


Dubai Carrier to Start Issuing Visas

lines, Dubai's government-owned carrier, said Thursday it would issue its passengers entry visas at some of its affices

it to issue the visas to encourage tourism during a monthlong shopping festival starting March 19. Dubai is one of the seven

Cruises are the fastest-growing business in British tour-ism, and ticket sales could top 1 million a year by 2001, said



TRAVEL UPDATE while 506 died on foreign airlines.

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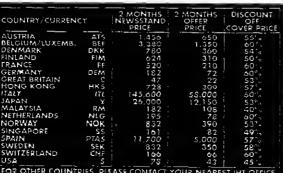


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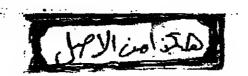
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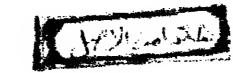
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Judge Voids Line-Item

Veto Power

Supreme Court to Decide

On President's Authority

item veto authority unconstitutional on

Thursday, setting the stage for a Supreme

Court test over the power that Congress

The law provides for a speedy appeal

"The Line-Item Veto Act is uncon-

10 the high court, bypassing an inter-

stitutional because it impermissibly disrupts the balance of powers among the

three branches of government," said

Judge Thomas Hogan of U.S. District

The act, the judge said, "impermissibly crosses the line between acceptable

delegations of rulemaking authority and

unauthorized surrender to the president

of an inherently legislative function.

namely, the authority to permanently

can reject sections of spending bills

Under the new authority, the president

In June, the Supreme Court turned

back a challenge to the law, but on

narrow grounds. It ruled that six mem-

bers of Congress who challenged the

veto authority lacked proper legal stand-

fected by a line-item veto once the pres-

spending projected over five years.

When he used it for the first time, on

Aug. 11, he declared, "The Washington

rules have changed for good, and for the

He vetoed 38 military construction projects in the spending bill for 1998. In

response, angry lawmakers voted over-

The city contended that it was un-fairly targeted by Mr. Clinton when he

canceled a section of the federal budget

bill that would have let the city and state

raise taxes on bospitals and pass those

charges along to the federal government in the form of Medicaid billings.

The city argued that the line-item veto violated bedrock principles separating the functions of the Congress,

which creates laws, and the executive

Supporters of the act contend,

In the court hearing of the suit, the

however, that it grants the president

only limited discretion on some federal

Justice Department argued that the veto merely gives the president five days

after he receives a spending bill from

Congress to decide whether to spend the

money as intended by lawmakers or

apply it instead to cutting the federal

Medicaid payments made to New York hospitals since 1992. The Clinton ad-

ministration contends that the state re-

ceived too much and wants some of it

Mr. Clinton's veto struck a paragraph

in the federal budget bill that would

have settled the dispute in New York's

The deputy mayor of New York, Randy Mastro, said, This was an un-

constitutional act that would have cost

the city as much as \$2.5 billion over

time, and therefore we are very pleased

A woman who suffered a severe

head injury when a wind-driven balloon in New York City's

Thanksgiving Day parade knocked

part of a lamppost onto her has

taken the first step in filing a \$95

million lawsuit against the city.

Kathleen Caronna, 34, spent almost

a month in a coma after fierce

winds sent the Cat in the Hat bai-

A college dropout who sent

threatening e-mail to dozens of

Asian students at the University of

California, Irvine, was convicted of

committing a hate crime in cyberspace. A jury found Richard Machado, 21, guilty of a civil rights

violation in one of the first successful federal prosecutions of a base crime via the Internet. He

with the court's decision.

Away From

Politics

loon out of control.

New York's lawsuit involved an estimated \$2.6 billion in disputed federal

branch, which administers them.

ident exercised the authority.

good of the American people."

Rudolph Giuliani.

spending bills.

The court made it clear then that the law could be challenged by anyone af-

ing to bring the case.

shape laws and package legislation.

without vetoing the entire measure.

ceded to the president in 1996.

mediate appeals court.

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could be sentenced to up to one year in federal prison and ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine. (AP) A nonprofit group has afficially taken over much of the management of New York's Central Park. The group, the Central Park Conservancy, will direct the park's daily operations while New York Clty will handle larger decisions, including the deployment of police

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas has agreed to pay a total of \$5 million to settle sexual abuse lawsuits involving two former priests. The plaintiffs, four men and one woman, said they were abused in the early 1980s. (AP)

THE AMERICAS



We hate it, give us more: Monica Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, leaving a Washington courthouse after testifying before a grand jury looking into an alleged affair between her daughter and President Bill Clinton.

Americans Profess Disgust With Media

They Say They're 'Sick' of Sex Scandal, but Ratings Tell Different Story

By Howard Kurtz

arski has had it with the media's pursuit of Monica Lewinsky,

ministrator from Rockville, Maryland, is also fed up with the coverage. "For weeks and weeks and weeks it was Paula Jones, Paula Jones, Paula Jones,"

The anger at the media over the investigation of President Bill Clinton and a former White House intern is like the cresting of a wave that has been gathering strength for years. The emotion is unmistakable in a torrent of calls, letters and e-mail messages: "Garbage mon-gers." "Cannibals." "Jackals."

Simpson trial as a case study in media excess. Most said that the accusations that Mr. Clinton asked Ms. Lewinsky to lie about a relationship with him were

as in the Simpson case, contains the seeds of its own contradiction. The same public that complains about saturation coverage is devouring that coverage in record numbers, encouraging news pro-

been strongest among certain segments of the public. Conservatives viewed the press as too soft on Mr. Clinton. Traditionalists worried about sensational-

Now these critics have been joined by many Clinton supporters and those who feel reporters should stop poking into private lives. Many others are simply turned off by what they see as overkill. Journalists, said Elaine Fink, a 55year-old technical writer, "are like a

The credibility of the news media seems to be at a low ebb among Americans, whether they watch the news religiously or barely glance at a paper. "I generally don't trust what they said Arshon Parker, 25, a stu-

Ms. Fink said: "Everyone wants to be first. People are not checking their sources. I don't watch CNN just for that

There was also unanimity among those interviewed by The Post that the intense coverage of the Lewinsky story is motivated by a scramble for ratings and circulation.

Kaskowitz, 32, a job recruiter, "Anything that will help sell the newspa-

Fifty-six percent of those surveyed in a Post poll last week said the news media have treated Mr. Clinton unfairly during the scandal. Nearly three-quarters of those questioned in Post and CNN sury was get attracting a large audience.

Outside Inquiry Is Set On a Clinton Official

Reno Asks for Look at Babbit Fund-Raising

By David Johnston New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno has decided to ask a judicial panel to appoint an outside prosecutor to investigate Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's role in bis agency's action to kill an Indian gambling project.

Ms. Reno asked the panel to instruct the new counsel, the sixth one to be appointed during the Clinton adminstration, to look at whether Mr. Babbitt lied to Congress and whether the decision to kill the project was "criminally corrupted.

But the charter she proposed for the Babbitt inquiry was notably narrow in scope, and would not permit the new independent counsel the latitude to investigate broader campaign fund-raising issues, as many prominent Republicans have sought.

Ms. Reno's decision comes at a hard time for the White House, creating a second front of vulnerability at the same time that President Bill Clinton's aides battle another independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr. He is conducting the investigation into the president's rela-tionship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intem.

The appointment of the fourth independent prosecutor to investigate one of Mr. Clinton's cabinet officers is the first outside inquiry into political fund-raising. At the least, it threatens to involve Mr. Babhitt and his aides in a time-consuming, expensive and poten-tially threatening inquiry into whether Mr. Babbitt's agency killed the Chippewa casino project in Hudson, Wis-consin, in return for campaign contributions from rival tribes.

Mr. Babbitt said he was disappointed by the decision and that the Interior Department's action on the Indian project "was the right one, made on the merits for the right reasons,"

*Those who made the decision bave testified unanimously that they were not influenced by improper political pressure," be said in a statement released by his office while he was traveling to the Everglades. "If it's true that only an independent counsel can resolve a matter like this if it involves a cabinet secretary, then I think the list of hidden costs one has to pay for public service has just grown a little longer."

Mr. Clinton expressed confidence

that Mr. Babbitt would be exonerated. "I have known Bruce Babbitt for many years. He is a man of the highest integrity and dedicated public servant. I am convinced that when this matter is concluded be will be vindicated," the president said. "I look forward to his

Ms. Reno's decision also comes at a moment of debate over independent counsel inquiries. Mr. Clinton's aides have attacked Mr. Starr for roaming far beyond his original mandate - probing the Whitewater land deal - to investigate the Lewinsky case.

If Mr. Start's widening inquiry exemplifies how independent prosecutors extend their jurisdictional boundaries.

Republicans have boped that the Babbitt inquiry would be a spear-point for a much broader campaign finance investigation into the frenzy of Democratic fund-raising in the 1996 campaign along with related issues, like whether the Chinese government improperly in-

fluenced the political process.
But Ms. Reno appeared Wednesday to have tried to head off any such effort by the Babbin independent prosecutor, who will be named not by Ms. Reno but by a three-judge panel.

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton Seeks Rise In Minimum Wage

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton and Democratic congressional leaders called Thursday for increasing the minimum wage hy \$1 an hour as part of an electionyear agenda that includes hiring teachers, expanding Medicare cov-

erage and protecting patient rights.
In a show of unity, Mr. Clinton joined the House minority leader. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, and the Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, on Capitol Hill to lay out a 1998 legislative game plan.

"We've got to stay the path of fiscal discipline." Mr. Clinion told the Democrais. "We dare not ahandon it.'

He cited the booming economy and gave credit to the Democratic leadership for belping enact initiatives he has supported.

Mr. Clinton said the programs

were not a political agenda. But it was clear that the issues were chosen to draw contrasts with Republicans this November when the entire House and one-third of the Senate face re-election.

Judicial Nominee **Wins Confirmation**

WASHINGTON - What some Republicans had once hoped would be an opportunity to press the claim that President Bill Clinton is filling the courts with out-of-control judges became instead a low-key debate that has ended in the confirmation of Margaret Morrow to be a U.S. district judge in Cali-

ators, relying on information from a conservative lobbying group, had singled out Ms. Morrow, a Los Angeles lawyer, as an example to bolster their case that Mr. Clinton was damaging the federal court system hy naming "activist judges." But Ms. Morrow proved to be a poor target, winning enthusiastic endorsements from several prominent Republican lawyers in her

In addition, Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said in a speecb on the floor Wednesday that he did not believe there was any evidence that Ms. Morrow would be a "judicial activist." as some of his colleagues bad argued. Ms. Morrow was confirmed by a vote of 67 to 28, with 25 Republicans voting in her favor. $(\hat{N}YT)$

Quote/Unquote

Hillary Rodham Clinton, reflect-ing on the 24-hour media, such as the Internet, that in some cases have instantaneously flashed false news about her husband around the world: "There used to be this old saying that the lie can be balfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on. Well, today, the lie can be twice around the world before the truth gets out of bed to find its boots."

Mr. Clinton used the veto power 82 times last year, striking \$1.9 billion in

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - Barbara Bryntwhelmingly to restore them and ex-pressed serious donbts about the merits "I just won't turn it on anymore," of the veto authority.

The case acted on Thursday was initiated by New York City's mayor,

said Ms. Bryniarski, 42, a trade publication editor from Chevy Chase, Maryland. "I'm sick of it. I'm sick of watching the photographers trample people. It's disgusting."
Linda Shaw, 47, a federal grants ad-

she said. "Then came Monica."

Character assassination."

By every available measure, the Lewinsky story is becoming a cultural benchmark of public dissatisfaction that may resonate for years. In a conversation with 13 residents of the Washington area brought together by a research firm for The Post, a majority compared the Lewinsky saga to the O. J.

unimportant and that they want more news about the U.S. standoff with Iraq.

But this denunciation of journalism,

viders to keep serving it up.
In the past, anti-media feelings have

dog with a bone."
"They get ahold of something and there's nothing else in the paper or on the TV or on the radio but that story for months." she said.

'It's tahloid news," said Sara

The growing distrust of the media

comes through in virtually every poll. veys said the Lewinsky sit ting "too much coverage." Four out of five in a Freedom Forum poll say the news media are mostly interested in

That they have done. During the scandal's peak, CNN and MSNBC doubled their usual ratings, and Fox News Channel's numbers rose 121 percent. USA Today distributed 500,000 extra copies one day; Time's newsstand sales jumped by 100,000.

Starr Raises Pressure on Key Whitewater Witness

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In a last-ditch effort to secure ber cooperation, Whitewater prosecutors have offered to let Susan McDougal testify by videotape away from a grand jury, but they sug-gested that if that plan were rejected, she

would risk further prosecution. In a Jan. 21 letter, the text of which was obtained by The Associated Press. the prosecutors called their offer "quite extraordinary and to our knowledge without precedent. Mrs. McDougal, a former Whitewater

business partner of President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, has been jailed on civil contempt charges for 17 months for refusing a federal judge's order to answer Whitewater prosecutors' questions before a federal grand jury.

Sbe has portrayed herself as a political prisoner, saying she even bad been denied medical care for a breast tumor. She says she refuses to testify because sbe believes Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating the Whitewater case, is trying to get her to lie to incriminate the president,

Mr. Starr's office has denied her al-

legations and has said she would be

freed as soon she testifies, calling her testimony essential since her former husband, James McDougal, began cooperating in 1996.

The purpose of this letter is to make a proposal that I hope and believe can resolve Ms. McDougal's contempt situ-

ation entirely," an associate independent counsel, Michael Emmick, wrote to Mrs. McDougal's lawyers. If she were to accept the latest offer. 'we would agree not to prosecute Ms. McDougal for criminal contempt, obstruction of justice or any crimes related to her refusal to comply with the court's order," the letter states. In May, the Arkansas grand jury that Mr. Starr's office bas used to investigate Whitewater will expire, and U.S. District Judge Susan Wehber Wright will have to free Mrs. McDougal on the civil contempt charge. At that point, prosecutors could im-

panel a new grand jury and issue a new subpoena demanding Mrs. McDougal's testimony. If she refused again, prosecutors could again ask the judge to imprison her on civil contempt charges. Alternatively, the prosecutors could proceed, as the letter suggests, with a criminal prosecution for contempt and obstruction of justice, charges that could result in a prison term.

Mr. Starr's office declined immediate comment Wednesday. But Mrs. Mc-Dougal's brother, William Henley, suggested the latest offer still would be unacceptable to his sister.



VATICAN CITY - The Vatican on Thursday announced that Cuba had released several dozen prisoners, partially meeting an appeal for clemency made by Pope John Paul II during his trip there last month. A Vatican statement said those freed

had been on a list of several bundred prisoners, including many dissidents, whose release the Vatican had sought from Cuban officials during the Pope's visit. The Pope also had publicly called on authorities while in Cuba to free prisoners of conscience. The Vatican is delighted with this

notable step which represents a concrete prospect for hope for the future of that noble nation," the statement said. It said the gesture by the Communist government was "an act of clemency and goodwill to mark the visit of Pope John Paul to Cuba.'

The Vatican did not name the freed persons or give the crimes for which they had been held. It said only that several dozen prisoners from the Vatican's list had been freed. The list had been compiled by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state and top diplomat, based on information that relatives and human rights groups had supplied in the months leading up to

the Pope's trip. The Vatican statement said that the Cuban government also had agreed to reduce the prison terms of another group they were or how many were involved. Cubans enthusiastically received the

Pope during the first visit ever made by a pontiff to the island on Jan. 21-25. He also was warmly welcomed by President Fidel Castro, who has headed the island's government since 1959. While in Cuba, the Pope had called for greater religious freedom and human rights.

While the Vatican said it was encouraged by the release of the prisoners, U.S. officials said it fell short of expectations. The State Department spokesman, James Rubin, said the pardons were "woefully inadequate" because they were far less than the Vatican had sought.

"These are a very small number," Mr. Rnbin said. "There are dozens of political prisoners in Cuba, and we would like to see them all released, not just those who have conducted hunger

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Rightist Party Propels India's Communists Toward the Center

By John F. Burns New York Times Service

ONARPUR, India - When Jyoti Basu arrived for an election rally in this town on the southern fringes of Calcutta, a crowd of about 25,000 people greeted him with shouts of "Lal Sa-laam!" meaning "Red Salute!"

The podium was draped with red bunting and a hammer-and-sickle insignia. Mr. Basu's first words were in a similar vein. "Comrades," he said, "I bring you fraternal greetings!"

In an India increasingly enamored of American-style capitalism, Mr. Basu might be taken for a man out of his time. At 83, he is the pre-eminent figure in India's fractured Communist Party. For 20 years, be bas been chief minister of West Bengal, a state with 75 million

people.
His base is Calcutta, a city of 12 million people with dying industries and festering slums that is an archetype of problems that accumulated in the decades wheo India took the Soviet Union

mains hugely popular.
"I love Comrade Jyoti and everything he stands for," said Vish-wanath Mitra, a skinny, stubble-bearded man who sat in the crowd clutching a red banner. Mr. Mitra, 42, said he had worked for years as a painter for 3.50 rupees an hour, barely 30 cents in the 1970s, before Communist reforms increased his daily pay to 60 rupees, now about \$1.50.

"All I have achieved in life, I have achieved through this flag," Mr. Mitra

But as Indians prepare for a general election that will culminate in a final round of voting on March 7, Communists across India are having to do some fresb thinking.

For several years now, Mr. Basu's government has been hailed by Western siness executives as one of the most investment-friendly among India's 25 states, to the point that some Indians question whether Mr. Basu's faction of

thing but came.

Now, another ideological somersault seems to be imminent, forced by the political arithmetic of the election. Only 20 months ago, after a general election in 1996 that produced the most intered Parliament in India's history,

gional and leftist parties. Under pressure from Communist hard-liners, Mr. Basu refused, saying that the party did not wish to com-promise its principles by heading a government that it could not fully control.

Mr. Basn was invited to become prime

minister in a coalition government of 13

Mr. Basu later described the decision as a "historic blunder." But by then the coalition government, under two lackluster prime ministers from centerleft parties, was stumbling toward political ohlivioo, finally collapsing in December 1997.

This led to the current election, and polls that have established a further rise popularity of the Bharatiya Janata

for its economic model. Despite the Communists failures, Mr. Basu remains hugely popular.

the party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), remains Communist in anything but oame.

Party, the rightist Hindu nationalist group whose specter forced the accommodations between squabbling groups that produced the coalition government

This time, Mr. Basu and the Com-munist Party of India (Marxist) have said they will join a coalition and will agree to Mr. Basu's heading it, if the opportunity arises. The reasons for the change of heart were made clear in his eech at the rally here, in which he said that the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party had confronted Indians with a choice as crucial as any since independence in 1947.

Although the Bharatiya Janata Party has oever been closer to winning an election, it has chosen not to play down elements in its creed that have prompted critics to say that it favors a "Muslim bashing". India in which 700 million Hindus would suppress the rights of 120 million Muslims.

In its election manifesto, the party has advocated a raft of policies that are anathema to Muslims, including plans

to build a Hindu temple on the site of a 16th-century mosque, in the northern city of Ayodhya, that was destroyed by a Hindu mob on Dec. 6, 1992.

To Mr. Basu, an atheist raised in a

Hindu family, the Bharatiya Janata Party's plans amount to an assault on the foundations of Indian democracy, as set down by Mohandas Gandhi and others in the independence generation. "The choice before us has never been more clear, or more crucial," the Communist.

leader said.
"After 5,000 years of civilization, do we want an India where political power will rest with people who destroy. mosques?

"Do we want to be ruled by barbarians who will attempt to divide us on communal lines? Or do you want an India where all people are treated equally, whatever their religion, their

caste or ethnic group?
"I say to all of you, this is a dangerous moment in our history, so you must think very carefully before you

Renewed Indonesia Fires **Worry Southeast Asia**

By Michael Richardson nternutional Herold Tribune

SINGAPORE -- With the Indonesian government short of money and preoccupied with an economic crisis that threatens to lead to serious social unrest, concern is growing in Singapore and Malaysia that the region will again be smothered in smoke pollution from uncontrolled forest fires in Indonesia.

Last year, such fires caused widespread bealth problems, disrupted air and sea traffic, and hit Southeast Asia's mulobillion-dollar tourist industry.

Scientists and weather experts warned oo Thursday that if the fires continued to gain a strong foothold in Indonesian Kalimantan and Sumatra, then Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, southern Thailand and the Philippines could see a repeat of the pollution that blotted out the sun for days at a time in the worst-affected areas between August and November and prompted many tourists to cancel their vacation plans.

This would be a major blow for a region already hattered by a currency and hanking crisis, and oow facing the specter of rising unemployment and in-flation as economic growth slows

sharply, ecocomists said. Indooesian officials said in Jakarta oo Thursday that satellite photographs showed more than 90 "hot spot" areas, up from 23 last week, that were affected hy oew or resurgent fires in parts of Kalimantan and Borneo, gripped by ooe memory.

"We could certainly be in for a repeat of last year if the fires keep hurning." said Steve Tamplin, regional adviser on environmental health in the World Health Organizatioo office in Manila. "Firefighters couldn't do very much to contain the fires once they got start-

This is because in East Kalimantan Province on the island of Borneo, where most of the fires are hlazing, there are vast dried-out peat and coal seams close to the surface. Ooce they catch fire, they are very difficult to put out. They also release poisonous sulfur and nitrogen pollutants into the atmosphere along with heavy smoke.

Soetarso, a senior official at the Coordinating Board for National Disaster Management in Jakarta, said recently that the Indonesian government hoped the fires would not spread smoke to other countries. "We might not have the money to fight the fire because of our ecocomic problems," he added.

Such comments and the apparent inability of Indonesian aothorities to control the fires, despite an official ban on burning and evidence that most are deliberately set by plantacion companies or farmers to clear land for developmeot, are causing increasing concern in neighboring countries that have to bear the consequences.

Malaysia is especially worried be-cause it will be host to the Commonwealth Games in September, the month in which the air pollution was at its unhealthiest in 1997.

Malaysian leaders fear that a recurrence this year of the pall of smoke from Indonesian fires, which traps transport and industrial fumes to create noxious smog, will deter athletes from com-

Singapore also has health and ecooomic concerns. Environment and Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong said receotly that the government was keeping a close watch oo the situation and belping to alert the Indonesian authorities to oew fires using satellite pic-

What we would like to do is to understand from them their capabilities at the present moment for fighting those fires," he said.

Malaysia, Singapore and Indooesia agreed oo a joint actioo plan in December to prevent a recurreoce of the smoke pollotion, under which Jakarta agreed to

improve its fire-fighting capabilities.
The International Mooetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, said recently that Indooesia was unable to use its special reforestation fund to help cope with the fires last year be-cause the mooey had been earmarked for a "national" car project.

When the IMF started looking at In-

docesia's finances to draw up a loansfor-reforms package, he said, it found a en-enaowea that was intended to help replant and protect the country's tropical forests, the secood largest in the world after

But oo mooey had been taken from it to fight the forest fires or set up better anti-fire defenses, Mr. Camdessus told an anti-corruption husiness forum in

'When asked why the money had oot been spent, we were told it was because it bad been set aside for the project to create a national car," he said

'Little is known about this extrabudgetary Reforestation Fund, but it contains billioos of dollars drawn from timber taxes," said Gerry van Klinken, editor of Inside Indonesia, a magazine published from Melbourne. "Administered via presidential decree, it has long been a convenient fund for many other purposes beyond restoring forest

He said that its major use was to provide cheap loans to commercial timber plantation companies, which replanted cut forests with quick-growing pine or acacia trees for pulp factories.

Indonesian covironmentalists and some officials blame plantation companies, many with close connections to the government, for starting most of the fires because it the cheapest and quickest way of clearing forest and scrub land for commercial development.



A bush fire burning down to a road in East Kalimantan, Borneo, one of several areas hit by blazes in Indonesia.

Australia President Will Be Appointed, Delegates Agree

CANBERRA — Australia's constitutional cooference decided Thursday that an Australian republic should be led by an appointed preside of with the power to dismiss

The coovection settled on a preferred republican model ahead of a final hut ooohinding vote Friday oo wbether Australia should sever its 210-year-old ties with Britain and drop Queen Elizabeth as head of

The convention's 152 delegates had been split between those who favored a direct public vote to elect a president and those who believed the country's political leader, the prime minister, should make that choice. A compromise between republican factions cleared the way for a consensus on how the new head of state would be elected.

If the convention votes for a republic on Friday, Prime Minister John Howard has promised a oational vote in 1999.

Under the republican model which can still be changed before the conference winds up Friday, a president would replace the queen's representative, the govemor-general.

The current system of an elected government led by a prime minister would remain, but the president would be head of state, chosen for a five-year term by the prime minister and opposition leader and approved by Parliameot.

China's Economic Czar Pushes Restructuring of Bureaucracy

By Steven Mufson Washington Post Service

BELIING - Deputy Prime Minister Zhu Roogji is pushing a plan to stream-line China's bloated government bureaucracy that would take effect just People's Coogress oext month.

Mr. Zhu wants to merge several ministries whose duties overlap. Sources suggest 10 or more ministries could be merged or abolished. In addition, Mr. Zhu is planning to take ministries overseeing industries and coovert them into state-owoed companies that would be expected to run on a more efficient, economically viable basis.

"At present, governmental agencies manage a lot of things they shouldn't manage and can't manage well," said Zhang Xiuxue, vice president of the Na-tional School of Administratioo. "The expansion of government agencies has hindered economic development."

But Mr. Zhang said that the proposed government overhaul was "still very difficult" and that "some people don't want to give up" their authority.

streamlining government," a govern-ment official said, "except when it comes to their own ministry or department." Despite widespread opposition to the plan from people who would lose status,

authority or even their jobs, most ana-

'Few people oppose Zhu's idea for

part, get his way. The government's chief economic policymaker, he is widely expected to become prime minister at the Party Congress oext month. With the rest of Asia in ecocomic crisis, few Chinese leaders would want to undermine the authority of the person who ing China avoid its neighbors' fate.

In what appeared to he an effort to divert criticism away from Mr. Zhu, Hu Jintao, another member of the Communist Party's all-powerful seven-man Standing Committee, is leading the working committee oominally in charge

of devising the streamlining plan.

In the past, many government departments were created to serve as power bases for political groups within the party and as rewards for long-serving party cadres. There are 40 ministries under the State Council, China's cabinet, plus eight institutions, 13 administrations and hureaus and seven offices.

Now, Mr. Zhu is proposing to merge bodies that duplicate each other's work. For example, the State Commission for Economic Restructuring might merge with the State Council's Development Research Center. The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Personnel could combine. The Ministry of Communications could join the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Radio, Film and Television also have been conlysts said, Mr. Zhu will, for the most sidered for consolidation.

Aid Agencies Plead For Afghan Relief

RESTAK: Afghanistan—With thousands of homeless people struggling to stay alive in ourth-eastern Afghanistan, which was devastated by an earthquake on Feb. 4, the Finned Nations and International Red Cross appealed Thursday for \$2.5 million to parachute in 1,000 tons of emergency aid.

"We can't mess around here," said Sarah Russell, spokeswoman for the United Nations in Pakistan. 'If we don't get that shelter, people will die. We need this money absolutely as soon as possible.

Among other pressing needs, aid workers want to send materials to build temporary lodging for the multitudes who lost their homes in the quake, which destroyed dozens of mountain villages and was re-ported to have killed at least 4,500

Damaged roads, snow, fog and civil war have made it difficult for aid agencies to reach the remote quake area - leading the Red Cross and the UN to consider dropping aid in by parachote.

China Declares War on Pollution

BEUING - China will spend billions of yuan by 2000 to prevent further fouling of its contaminated air and water, and will close heavy polluters despite the economic cost. the country's top environmental official says.

Untreated sewage and waste-water from factories have polluted China's rivers, lakes and coastal waters, killing off fish and leaving the water unfit to drink. China's heavy dependence oo coal has made air pollotion in its major cines some of the worst to be found any-

China is paying a severe envi-ronmental price for its rush for ecocomic development but it hopes to reverse the trend, Xie, Zhenhua, minister of the National Environmeotal Protection Agency, said

Indian Militants Kill 7 Villagers

AGARTALA, India - S ted tribal militants shot to death at least seven people in the cortheastern Indian state of Tripura on

Thursday. The militants belonging to the outlawed All Tripura Tiger Force shot the seven people in Khowai village, about 120 kilometers from

the state capital, Agartala. They set several houses on fire and when the residents tried to escape, the separatists fired at them, an army official said.

On Wednesday, suspected unlitants from the same group torched several houses in Urabari, 55 kilometers from Agartala, and killed five people.

Clerics Meet Jiang

BEUING — Three U.S. clerics aiming to opeo a dialogue with Chinese authorities on freedom of religion held a meeting Thursday with President Jiang Zemin.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, the Reverend Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and Archhishop Theodore McCarrick of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, met with the Chinese leader. (Reuters)

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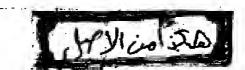
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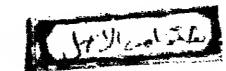
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Aid Agencies Plead For Afghan Relief

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will do. We tred this money will do. We tred the potential state the Lanca Attentions in Pales will do. We tred this money as possible.

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Darm god rougs, snow for a great war have made a deficit, and agencies to teach the rate quaker area including the few areas area the UN to consider any parachine in

China Declares War on Pollution

BEHING — Chur will me billion and years by 2000 to me further too long of its continue air and water, and will close be political according to the country.

Consected sewage the white-ter facts factories have pole. Characteristic which and ear-white white unit is from Car-teristic appropriate on con-tracted and appropriate on con-tracted and appropriate on con-tracted and appropriate on con-tracted and appropriate on con-marks and a contract of contrac-marks and a contract of contract and contract of contract of contract and contract of contract of contract of contract of contract and contract of contract of contract of contract of contract and contract of contract of contract of contract of contract of contract and contract of contrac

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Indian Militants Kill 7 Villagers

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EUROPE

Greece Rejects Call By Turkey to Talk

it would hold no talks over what it described as Greek solve it,"

a set of good-neighbor principles that were agreed to last also provocative.' year and increase confidencebuilding measures that are
supported by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
two which both countries be-

long.
To accomplish this, Turkey called for a meeting between the two foreign ministries before April.

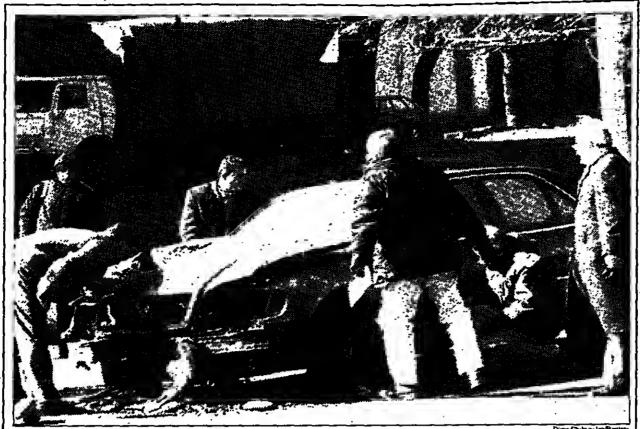
In Athens, a government spokesman, Dimitris Reppas, said that the proposal offered oothing new and was aimed at

ANKARA — Turkey
called Thursday for o highlevel meeting with Greece to
try to resolve disputes in the
Aegean Sea, but Athens dismissed the move, saying that
it strongly bold as tells over international court should re-

territory. "They dispute our islands,
A Turkish Foreign Min- ideotify them as problem istry statement invited Greece areas and want a high-level to identify prohlem areas in meeting to negotiate our ter-the Aegean jointly, formalize ritory," he cootinued. "This is oot only unacceptable but

claims in the Aegean.
Turkey and Greece came close to war in 1996 over an uninhabited islet. Lastminute U.S. intervention averted conflict.

Reladons are further fouled by Turkey's failure to achieve European Union membership. Greece, an EU member, has vetoed the paytrapping Athens into a full- ment of hundreds of millions scale dialogue over Greek ter- of dollars in aid to Turkey.



IMPORTED INVESTIGATORS - U.S. crime specialists examining on Thursday the armored car that President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia was in when assassins tried to kill him by grenade Monday in Tbilisi.

Diana 'Conspiracy' Mulan Pu Distresses Palace Family Criticizes Al Fayed's Claim

spiracy lurked behind the Paris car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, and his

Mr. al Fayed told the Daily Mirror newspaper that he was "99.9 percent" certain that the crash oo Aug. 31 was oot an accident

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said claims of a plot were distressing Diana's

"It is causing a lot of stress to the family," the spokes-man said. "And it's not nec-

essary."
Britain's unending media frenzy over the late princess is troohling both the palace and Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, who fear its impact oo Diana's sons, William

long sought to become a Brit-

established exactly what happened," he was quoted as saying in the Mirror.

"I will find the persoo who boys," Mr. al Fayed said.

Doctors who meated Diana

caused this accident," he during her last hours have said said. "I believe there were her only words were cries of people who did oot want Dodi and Diana to be together."

A spokeswoman for Di-LONDON — Buckiogham ana's family, the Spencers, noted it was oot the first time someone had suggested there had been a plot against the

"There are so many con-spiracy theories that we're not commenting on any of

them," she said. In the Arab world, theories abound that Diana was killed because she was about to convert to Islam to wed Dodi.

The police in Paris have said that Henri Paul, an employee of Mr. al Fayed's wbo was driving the car that crashed, was legally drunk. Investigators have also

found evideoce that the car had hit another car before crashing. They are still searching for the mystery car. Mr. al Fayed told the Mir-

ror that it was too coovenient to hlame a drunkeo driver. Mr. al Fayed said Diana

and Dodi had been engaged to and Harry.

Mr. al Fayed, an Egyptianborn businessman who has

and Dodi had beeo engaged to
marry, adding. "I am sure she
had told her children."

He repeated a claim that ish citizen, did not say who he Diana spoke to a nurse at the thought was involved in the hospital during her last hours, alleged conspiracy against his and he hroke his earlier vow 42-year-old son and the 36- not to reveal what she said.

year old princess.

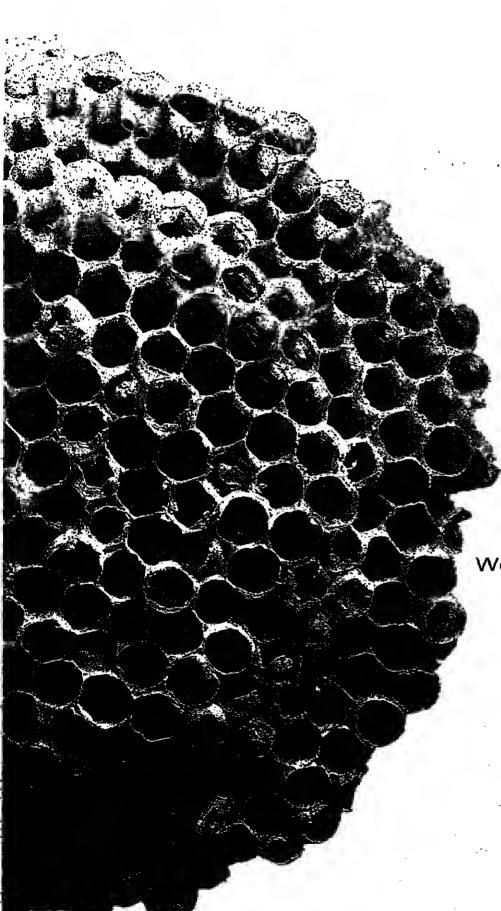
But he said many figures in the British "establishmeot" were happy they were killed.

"There was a conspiracy and I will not rest until I have the said many figures in the British "establishmeot" woold like all my possessions in Dodi's apartmeot to be given to my sister Sarah, including my jewelry and my personal clothes and please tell

pain and that she was unconscious for most of the time.

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BRIEFLY

Havel in Hospital With Fever

PRAGUE - President Vaclay Havel, plagued by ill health since undergoing cancer surgery more than a year ago, was in satisfactory condition on Thursday after being taken to the hospital with a fever.

Doctors said, however, that they were considering hringing forward a planned operation on the 61-year-old president, who has suffered sporadic bouts of pneumonia, compounded by chronic bronchitis, since his surgery.

Ladislav Spacek, a presidential spokesman, said Mr. Havel's hreathing had become more difficult in the right lung, from which a small cancerous tumor was removed in December 1996. (Reuters)

German Police Seek Extremists

JENA, Germany -- German prosecutors said Thursday that three rightist extremists were on the run after the discovery of a bomh factory in a garage in the eastern

Police found the explosives late last month while investigating a failed attempt to hlow up the town's theater in September, they said.

Arrest warrants for the three extremists, aged between 20 and 24, have been issued. Prosecutors said the three had been on the run since police searched the garage.

Croatia Drops Anti-Serb Decree

ZAGREB, Croatia - The Croatian government annulled a decree oo Thursday that permitted the evictioo of thousands of Serhs from state-owoed apartmeots in a former enclave, after Western diplomats hranded it dis-

"The Croatian government annulled the decree on the use of state-owned apartments in Eastern Slavonia at a cahinet session on Thursday." the news agency Hina

The decree, adopted by the government in January, allowed the mainly Croat occupants of the apartments in the Eastern Slavonia enclave, who fled during the Serb-Croat war, to reclaim their property by March 15. (Reuters)

Sinn Fein Insists on Talks Role

BELFAST — Sinn Fein rejected demands for its expulsion from Northern Irish peace talks on Thursday and denied that a truce hy its Irish Republican Army ally

"It is my view that the IRA cessation is intact," Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, said. Pro-British parties have accused the IRA of breaching a cease-fire with two murders this week.

Mr. Adams insisted Sinn Fein's hands were clean and said it must oot be thrown out of talks that Britain and Ireland say offer the best prospects of easing strife between pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Roman



Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams speaking on Thursday.

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1 Table 1

Service Control

UNITED NATIONS. New York --Secretary-General Kofi Annan is seeking a diplomatic compromise in the confrontation with Baghdad that would include augmenting United Nations official said. It's very narrow, but there weapons inspectors in Iraq with diplomats or scientific experts during visits to eight Iraqi "presidential sites," according to sources at the UN.

Mr. Annan has moved to the center of the negotiations as Russian, French, Turkish and Arab efforts to broker a solution have faltered and as the United States and Britain have gathered wider support for a military attack intended to pummel President Saddam Hussein into cooperating with UN weapons inspec-

Kofi is now the wild card," said a senior diplomat at the UN. "He has the idea of a deal, and he's now tooking for a way to make it work.

"He's the only one who can do a deal," a French envoy said.

Annan has the outline of a resolution in Annan could find ground for a comhis sights, it remains elusive because of wide disagreement on the detaits.

'We'te walking a tightrope," a UN is a little room for mancuver, for com-

A European diplomat added: "Last week, everyone had his own ideas. There were discussions with the Iraqis and among ourselves. Now those ideas are

Mr. Annan met behind closed doors integrity of the UN effort to weed out of Iraqi "presidential" compounds. Iraq's illegal weapons programs but give Mr. Saddam a face-saving way to back down. The council is the key because it established the inspection program as inspection program. part of the cease-fire that ended the Gulf

Officials here say that although Mr. War in 1991. UN insiders said that if Mr. promise, he was prepared to fly to Baghdad and present it to Mr. Saddam in an

attempt to head off a U.S.-led air strike. The session Wednesday, however, produced only an agreement to resume neeting later in the week.

The plan under discussion entails adding diplomats or scientific experts to the team of arms inspectors who work for the UN Special Commission on

Efforts to put together this compro-Wednesday with representatives of the mise have been styrnied by Iraq's infive permanent members of the Security sistence on limiting inspections and Council - the United States, Britain, making the weapons investigators sub-China, France and Russia - to try to servient to the diplomats who would find agreement on a plan to preserve the accompany them during investigations

> The Iraqis also want to ditute the power of Richard Butter, the Australian disarmament expert who heads the UN

Those conditions are unacceptable to

die United States, Britain and France and are contrary to Security Council resolutions that require Iraq to provide unconditional access to any place the inspectors say they need to go to complete their work.

The United States and other council members cannot agree fully on how the new plan would work.

The chief U.S. delegate, Bill Richardson, said the American goal was to ensure that inspectors had the access they needed and to preserve "the integrity and professionalism" of their work. The United States, Britain and France are prepared to add the experts or diplomats to the teams as long as they do not impede the search for illegal arms.

But just who the added personnel might be is a central issue. U.S. and It called for a new team of inspectors British envoys insist they must come from the five Security Council members. The dispute focuses on eight pres-

idential compounds, some of which contain hundreds of buildings, that Iraq has declared off-limits to inspectors. An Iraqi offer Wednesday was im-



Secretary-General Annan, who is pressing for a compromise on Iraq.

appointed by Mr. Annan to search the eight sites for 60 days.

'It's not up to Iraq to set the conditions for those inspections," said the White House spokesman, Michael Mcdo the work as the United Nations sees



By John Lancaster

KUWAIT — American efforts to line up Arab support for military action against Iraq has gained ground as Washington's Gulf allies have unanimously blamed Baghdad for its standoff with the United Nations, and Egypt's president has warned that Iraqi defiance of UN arms inspectors could provoke a violent American response.

Foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council — Bahrain. Kuwaii, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates — said after meet-Curry. "It's up to the United Nations to do the work as the United Nations sees crisis is a direct result of Baghdad's reluciance to cooperate with UN efforts to get Iraq to destroy its nuclear, chemical and biological arsenal.

In Cairo, President Hosni Mubarak sounded an ominous tone after meeting with Irag's foreign minister, Mohammed Said Sahhaf, who along with other Iraqi officials is touring Arab capitals in an effort to head off U.S. air strikes that military officials hinted could begin as early as next week.

"What I fear is, if Iraq does not implement the resolutions, this would lead to a strike, and no one can prevent the United States from doing that," Mr.

"I have talked to the Iraqi foreign minister and told him that the situation is dangerous and it is important to implement Security Council resolutions to avoid a crisis.

With the possible exception of Kuwait, none of Washington's Arab allies are enthusiastic about the prospect of military action, fearing that anything short of a death blow to the Iraqi government — a goal the Clinton administration has disavowed - will merely prolong the agony of a fellow Arab

All bave emphasized their desire for a diplomatic solution and are apprehensive that any bombing could inflame Arab public opinion, particularly if Iraq suffers heavy civilian losses.

At the same time, Washington retains great leverage over moderate Arab states, especially Gulf Arab countries for whom U.S. military forces are the principal deterrent against perceived threats from Iran and Iraq.

These conflicting pressures have generated confusion as to the real motives of friendly Arab countries, some of which have publicly condemned the military option even while privately assuring U.S. officials of their support. During his tour of the region this

week, Defense Secretary William Cohen secured varying degrees of cooperation from the Gulf oil monarchies, although only Kuwait and Bahrain bave consented to the use of their territory as launching pads for U.S. air strikes.

Kuwaiti leaders, whose hatred of Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, stems from the 1990 Iraqi invasion, apparently lost little sleep over their decision to permit American military planes at Jaber Air Base here.

'tt's oot a difficutt decision," said a person close to the Kuwaiti emir, Sheik Jaber al Ahmed as Sabah. "What's dif-ficult is bow to deal with Arab public

opinion. But as diplomatic efforts by Russia and the Arab League, among others, have met continued resistance in Baghdad, other Arab governments in the Gulf

seem resigned to the inevitability, if oor necessarily the wisdom, of a U.S.-led bombing campaign.
"When D-Day comes, most of the Arabs will be closer" to Kuwait's po-

sition, said a European diplomat. Though far from an endorsement of

U.S. military action, the declaration by the Gulf ministers was welcomed by Washington because it explicitly blamed Baghdad for the confrontation.

Iraq says that it has already complied with UN demands to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.



Jensen Peterson, age 1, waiting for his father, U.S. Air Force Captain Jeff Peterson, at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Captain Peterson's helicopter rescue squadron is being sent to the Gulf for an indefinite stay.

Ravy Fliers Ready for a Role in Gulf charge of all U.S. forces in the Middle on smart bombs since - including

By Bradley Graham

ABOARD THE U.S.S. GEORGE WASHINGTON — Lieutenant Commander Nick Mongillo. pilot of an F/A-18 fighter for the U.S. Navy, remembers watching enviously as air force colleagues captured the headlines during the 1991 Gulf War, dropping "smart"

bombs down chimneys. All he could drop then were conventional bombs, without advanced technology to guide them to targets.

Now things are different. As the ine pilots are set to fly the majority of missions in an operation code-named
"Desert Thunder" that will hinge, by all
accounts, on precision munitions.

Two factors explain the navy's promwide use of laser guidance technology. Second, the air force has been handicapped by Saudi Arabia's resistance to lo send more gas masks to Kuwait. letting U.S. land-based aircraft launch

strike missions from its territory.
At the center of any U.S. air assault on Iraq would be the F/A-18 and F-14 fightcrs on this aircraft carrier and another, the Independence, along with about 250 Tomahawk cruise missiles spread among eight other ships.

Their targets, in the words of General Anthony Zinni, the commander in

East, would be the things that allow Saddam Hussein "to slay in power, threaten his neighbors, threaten the use of wcapons of mass destruction."

These would be things like sites for producing or storing chemical or biological weapons, military command bunkers, communication networks and special Republican Guard units that provide security for the Iraqi leaders. General Zinni said his troops should

be ready to strike in a week or so. We're ready now," he said, "but there are a few more pieces to put in," United States prepares for possible referring to deployments of several strikes against Iraq, U.S. Navy and Mar-dozen more aircraft, 2,000 Marines and up to 3.000 army troops.

He said his biggest remaining worry was whether he and his planners had taken into account "every possible reaction" that Iraq could make to an air inence this time. First, it has improved its strike. In this regard, he said, he would weapons and cockpit-targeting systems welcome contributions from allies of desubstantially since the Gulf War, making tection and decontamination equipment planes. Nor does the navy have anything to guard Kuwait against Iraqi chemical attack. The United States has promised

To reduce the risk of killing civilians and to pulverize some of Iraq's best-protected and most-bardened facilities, military officials have indicated that air strikes would largely rely on precisionguided weapons, with infrared seekers or TV guidance systems that enable them to be steered to a target.

The navy bad relatively few at the was imposed on it time of the Gulf War, but has stocked up after the Gulf War.

100-pound Walleyes, 1,400-pound SLAMS and 2,000-pound GBU-24s. The two carriers in the Gulf have more smart weapons between them than the six carriers used in the 1991 war, according to navy officials.

"We can go after smaller targets oow, pinpointed areas, instead of the broad areas we went after before," Commander Mongillo said. "This time, we have more coofidence in our equipment and

Not only have the navy's bombs and missiles improved. The planes carry more advanced targeting capabilities as well, especially the F-14, whose role before was limited to air-to-air combat. Now it can deliver smart bombs, too, using a laser-guidance system.

For all their progress, though, navy strike aircraft still have limitations in range and bomb weight that make them planes. Nor does the navy have anything to match the radar-evading capabilities of the F-117 stealth jet or the payloads of the B-52 bomber.

As the prospect of fighting nears, the pace of flight operations has increased on this nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Instead of 30 or so flight hours a month. some pilots are spending as many as 40

Here, their daily patrols take them over southern Iraq, enforcing a ban that was imposed on Iraqi military flights



Turks Reportedly in Iraq To Stop Kurdish Refugees

By Stephen Kinzer New York Times Service

1STANBUL - About 7,000 Turkisb soldiers have crossed into northern Iraq in recent days, according to press accounts here, reportedly to prevent Iraqi Kurds from flooding into Turkey should the United States and its allies attack Iraq. Such an influx occurred after the Gulf War in 1991.

Neither the military command nor the Foreign Ministry would confirm the deployment, but it has been front-page news in the country's best-connected newspapers.
"Seven thousand troops went into

northem Iraq yesterday morning," the Istanbul daily Hurriyet reported Wednesday, citing witnesses and military sources.

Another major paper, Sabah, reported: "Although it bas not been confirmed, armed units have entered Iraq at several points."

cabinet decided over the weekend to establish a 15-kilometer (9-mile) buffer strip inside northern Iraq. The reports say Turkish troops will occupy the strip until the current Iraq crisis is over, forbidding any refugees from entering Turkey. Senior Turkish officials are divided on how fully to support any bombing

campaign against lraq. The government's attitude will determine whether U.S. bombers are allowed to operate against fraq from their base at Incirlik, near the Mediterranean city of Adana; the base is under Turkish command. During the Gulf War, a million refugees, most of them Kurds, fled to

Turkey from Iraq to escape what they

feared would be postwar reprisals by President Saddam Hussein. Kurdish leaders, encouraged by the United States and other Western powers, had sought unsuccessfully to overthrow Mr. Saddam. The flood of refugees stirred consciences in the West and led to the establishment of a protected zone in northern Iraq where the central government is forbidden to exercise power. Since then,

feuding Kurdish groups unable to establish a functioning administration. Much to the dismay of Turkish military commanders, the zone bas also become a sanctuary from which Kurdisb guerrillas stage raids into Turkey. Turkish troops cross into the zone regularly for search-and-destroy operations, leading each time to a round of international

the zone has dissolved into anarchy, with

condemnation. Before the Gulf War, Iraq was one of Turkey's major trading partners, and much of southeastern Turkey lived on a viable alternative. cross-border trade. After United Nations sanctions were imposed on Iraq, the Turkish region suffered devastating economic losses, and its growing poverty Chaributed to discontent that fueled the

Kurdish guerrilla movement. Turkey has not been compensated for the billions of dollars it has lost by complying with the sanctions, which it hopes to see ended.

Turkey wants a strong authority imposed in northern Iraq so anti-Turkisb guerrillas will no longer be able to hide there. But it is also anxious to prevent the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq, which it fears might follow a collapse of Mr. Saddam's regime.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has charged several times in recent days that the United States is secretly planning to divide Iraq and establish a Kurdisb state in the north. U.S. officials deny

Mr. Ecevit has suggested that he will oppose any move to allow U.S. bombers to operate from Incirlik.

Foreign Minister Ismail Cem, who met with Mr. Saddam in Baghdad last week and urged him to open all sites in his country to UN weapons inspectors, said in an interview that Turkey was an According to the reports, the Turkisb ally of the United States and would 'always behave as an atly.



Iraqi children arriving Thursday to visit a monument in Baghdad that commemorates an American raid in 1991.

Iraqi Opposition in Disarray And Too Weak to Play a Role

By John Burgess and David B. Ottaway

LONDON - Iraqi opposition groups are at one of the lowest points in their history, bit by defections, foreign aid cuts and military operations against them.

One group representing Iraq's Kurd-ish minority has allied itself with President Saddam Hussein, while another is sending representatives to Baghdad to talk peace. The Iraqi National Congress, formerly the principal U.S. client, has never recovered from a blow that Mr. Saddam's troops delivered to its people

in northern Iraq in August 1996.
"There's nothing in place inside Iraq at this time to take advantage of any weakening of Saddam," said Rend Rahim, executive director of the Iraq Foundation, a group based in Washington. There is nothing prepared to present an alternative to him. George Jaffe, deputy director of the

in London, gave a similar view. "They lack credibility," he said. "None has shown the ability to organize effectively. maintain popularity inside Iraq or create Whose fault that is is up for debate. Dissidents contend that the United States and other foreign countries helped

marginalize them by cutting back sup-

port. "What we lack now is resources,"

Royal Institute of International Affairs

said Ahmed Chalabi, a London businessman who beads the Iraqi National Congress, which received most of the \$100 million in covert assistance the United States funneled to the Iraqi opposition after the 1991 Gulf War.

National Congress forces, along with supporters of another group receiving covert U.S. aid, the Iraqi National Accord, were routed in the Angust 1996 crackdown. Two bundred opposition figures were executed and more than 2,000 placed under arrest. The United States spirited more than 7,000 others out of northern Iraq to Guam, and then moved them to the United States.

The bloodbath embittered both opposition groups, which charged that the United States had abandoned them to Iraqi forces. Critics of both groups, bowever, talk of endless infighting and corruption within the dissidents' ranks.

The groups now are watching from the sidelines as the United States and Britain prepare for possible military strikes against Iraq with a limited objective: forcing Mr. Saddam to submit to United Nations weapons inspections.

U.S. and British officials continue to meet with dissident leaders - about 16 lraqis representing a range of organizations attended a 90-minute meeting at the Foreign Office in London on Monday. But the goal, according to both sides, was to exchange views, not plan a larger role for the groups.

'Dire Consequences' Foreseen by Iraqi

CAIRO—The Iraqi foreign min-ister, Mobammed Said Sahhaf, said Thursday that any U.S. military strike against his country would result in "dire consequences" to the region and the United States.

"We are coordinating with our Arab brothers to be in the best position to make the Americans see not only the seriousness of their foolishness by using force against Iraq, but also the dire consequences not only to the region and to Iraq but also to them," Mr. Sahhaf said.

"They should know it is not a picnic," he said, referring to the Americans. He spoke after he met with the Arab League's secretarygeneral, Esmat Abdel Meguid, in

The dominant view in Washington and London is that Mr. Saddam is unlikely to fall to a popular uprising. "We think the most likely way that change will come about is from the inside, from the circle around Saddam," an American official said.

Dissidents say that even that goal will not be served by current U.S. policy. 'What is the probable outcome of these air strikes? Just death and destruction, Mr. Chalabi said. "Saddam will make sure thousands of people will die. The U.S. will be branded as baby-killers."

For Tehran, the Best of Times It Looks On Happily as Its 2 Biggest Enemies Prepare to Fight

By Elaine Sciolino New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - As Iran celebrates the 19th anniversary of its Islamic revolution, it finds itself in a win-win its two worst enemies, the United States

and Iraq, are poised for conflict. Since the most recent crisis between Washington and Baghdad erupted a few Washington and Baghdad crupted a few weeks ago, Iran bas stayed out of their buildup of U.S. forces in the Gulf. Iran way. It gains the most by neither exwith it against the United States, but by

letting the crisis run its course. Officially, Iran has announced its opposition to possible U.S. military action against Iraq, which inevitably would have to take place close to Iran's shoreline

But Iran can watch with satisfaction if U.S. bombs severely damage Iraq's remaining military capability — a goal that the Iranians failed 10 accomplish in their war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988.

President Mohammed Khatami of Iran, who is also the president of the 55country Organization of the Islamic Conference, is trying to use the crisis to eign forces was unacceptable. bolster his standing with his Arab neighbors and portray himself as a regional

statesman calling for peace. "As president of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I call on the great human tragedy in Iraq," he said in all international laws and resolutions."

an anniversary speech Wednesday to tens of thousands of people who gathered during a heavy snowstorm in subzero weather in one of Tehran's main

Iran has also put itself squarely behind situation, watching from the sidelines as the United Nations, demanding that Iraq adhere to Security Council resolutions that require unrestricted inspections of its military installations.

has long condemned the U.S. military ploiting Iraq's weak position nor joining presence, calling it destabilizing meddling along the Iranian coastline. And U.S. bombing of Iraq could give

ammunition to Mr. Khatami's enemies, who oppose his efforts to reach out to the United States. Even Mr. Khatami, however, has blamed the United States for most of Iran's problems, and a military strike that

resulted in high civilian casualties could be interpreted as a warning of sorts that Iran could be next. On Wednesday, the anniversary of the Islamic revolution of 1979, Mr. Khatami reaffirmed Iran's view that the Gulf was

"The foreign presence in the region is the cause of tension and it is an insult to the nations of the region," be said.

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"Iraq may be attacked at any moment, We strongly condemn any attack on Iraq countries and international organiza- that would harm the Iraqi people, but we tions to make every effort to prevent a call on the Iraqi government to submit to

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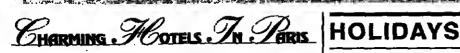
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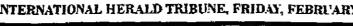
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INTERNATIONAL



Peru Is Accused of Coercing Poor Women to Be Sterilized

By Anthony Faiola Washington Post Service

LIMA — Mounting evidence that the Peruvian government's family-planning program is employing coercion, misinformation or promises of food to persuade poor women to undergo sterilization has prompted public outery and calls for an official investigation.

The heart of the issue is whether the government, in an effort to curb population growth, is using a quota system that offers public health doctors promotions in exchange for persuading poor rural women — who are often illiterate and speak only local Indian languages — to be sterilized. Many also are charging that doctors, in the rush to meet the alleged quotas, are operating in ansanitary conditions that reportedly have caused at least two deaths.

There are four official inquiries under — and consequently to increase the way, including one by a U.S. congressional committee of the product many say.

There are four official inquiries under — and consequently to increase the have taken the ministry's goals too seriously.

Tributed to doctors in Huancavelica, a very poor rural region in Peru. sional committee seeking to find out if U.S. Agency for International Development money was used unwittingly in the sterilization campaign.

"I don't think there is any question that women in Peru, especially very poor mestizo women, have been misled into having sterilizations, and that, in some cases, they were lied to, or offered food, in exchange for having a steritization procedure, said Joseph Rees, chief council of the U.S. congressional subcommittee on international and human rights operations, which issued a 20page report Thursday. The Peruvian government, which started the public

Officials argue that they have set 'goals" and not quotas, and then only for budgetary planning. Supporters of women undergoing the operation are doing so of their own free will, and they blame the religious right for opposition based on theological grounds.

"We want to emphasize that there is no campaign on behalf of the Ministry of Health to give priority to a single method of family planning," Health Minister Marino Costa Bauer told the Peruvian sterilize annually. Those credits appar-

sterilization campaign in 1995 and has starting its own probe, with the assist- employment, according to those close to since seen the number of participants ance of the World Health Organization, the various investigations. almost triple, to 110,000 in 1997, is because health officials want to determine the document of the world Health Organization.

"We want to find out the validity of the claims that are being made, hut we believe the valid complaints are very small towns in the countryside - also the program say the vast majority of the limited," said William Toro Cabrera, a physician and president of the government's Committee of Family Reproductive Health.

But evidence suggesting that a quota system does exist is contained in an internal government document that out-Congress. He said, "We are not executing a massive sterilization campaign." ently were taken into account when evaluating whether doctors would be proNevertheless, the Health Ministry is moted or retained for government

According to human rights groups, several women — mainly Indians from have come forward to complain after undergoing sterilization.

One woman, Victoria Vigo Espinoza, 35, from the northern city of Piura, told investigators that she was sterilized by doctors without her permission after giving birth in a local hospital. Another woman, Maura Castillo Nole, 25, who lives near the same northern city, said she was offered monthly shipments of food in exchange for sterilization - an offer she accepted.

Mr. Rees said the congressional comminee was looking into whether money from USAID was diverted, probably The document, published in the Pe- through local nongovernmental organiseeking to reduce the national hirth rate mine whether doctors in the countryside ruvian newspaper El Comercio, was dis- zations, to aid the sterilization program.

Russia Scolds U.S.

Continued from Page 1

was that hy anacking stocks of chemical weapons in Iraq, U.S. forces would send

a cloud of contamination over Central

"That would hurt our relacions," Mr. Sergeyev said. "That would set our re-

lations back many years. We have no

common borders with Iraq, hut with

chemical weapons that doesn't mat-

The U.S. secretary of state, mean-

while, responding to congressional calls for a clearer policy on Iraq, said in Washington that the long-range goal for

the United States was to remove Mr. Saddam as president, but not with Amer-

"Iraq would be better off without Saddam Hussein." Secretary of State

Mrs. Albright testified before the

House International Affairs Committee

in a hearing that was marked by demands

for a policy that went beyond a threat to

bomb Iraqi biological and chemical

Benjamin Gilman, proposed U.S. recog-

nition of a democratic opposition. The

panel's senior Democrat, Lee Hamilton,

said he supported using force against

Iraq hut also wanted an "alternative

policy" to undercut Mr. Saddam's gov-

was seeking effective ways to support opposition factions but hesitated to dis-

Support for the administration continued to erode in the Senate. Citing a "total lack of confidence" in the Clinton

administration, Senator Slade Gorton.

cuss them at the open hearing.

Mrs. Albright said the administration

The panel's chairman, Representative

ican combat troops.

weapons sites.

Madeleine Albright said.

IRAQ:

Plane Crash Kills

BRIEFLY

High Sudan Aide KHARTOUM, Sndan --- A plane carrying Sudanese military and polinical leaders crashed in fog Thursday, killing the vice president, Major General Zubair Mohammed

Islamic government. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army said the plane was shot down hy its forces.

Saleha, a key leader in the country's

"It was not a crash," Justin Yaac, spokesman for the group's poliocal wing, said in Nairohi. He said the plane was headed for Juba, in southern Sudan, "and when it was in an area we control we shot it down." The claim could not be independ-

ently confirmed. The government said that at least seven others aboard were killed when the military plane crashed as it prepared to land at Al Nasir in southern Sudan. (AP. Reuters)

Incident in Gaza

GAZA - Israeli soldiers and Palestinian policemen pointed guns at each other and exchanged punches on Thursday in a confron-tacion in the Gaza Strip, a senior Palestinian police officer and Arab witnesses said.

Lieutenant Colonel Khaled Abi Oula said Jewish settlers, guarded by more than 70 Israeli soldiers, took over a plot of land claimed by a Palestinian family near the settlement of Neve Dekalim, in the southern Gaza Strip. Colonet Abi Oula said Israeli troops in a joint patrol with Palestinian police "pointed their guns at us and a fistfight broke out." An Israeli military source said the confrontation started after dozens of

Palestinians tried to tear down a fence around "a plot of land owned

hy an Israeli" near Neve Dekalim. The Israeli source said the army took a grave view of the incident since the Palestinians and Israelis were in a joint patrol. (Reuters)

Fighting Reported On Rebel Island

MORONI, Comoros - Fighting erupted on the hreakaway Comoro island of Nzwani, the former Anjouan, after rebels attempted to arrest a former Comoros prime minister they suspected of plotting to end their secession.

Wimesses arriving from the is-land on Thursday said there had been many casualties but that Mohammed Abdou Madi - who was briefly prime minister in the early 970s - had so far evade (Reuters)

San Diego Gang Charged in Killing

MEXICO CITY — A federal grand jury in California has indicted 10 San Diego street gang members on charges of serving as paid killers and traffickers for one of Mexico's most powerful drug cartels and has implicated most of them in the 1993 slaying of a Roman Catholic cardinal in Mexico.

The indictments, unsealed this week, are part of a concerted crackdown hy U.S. law enforcement officials against Hispanic gangs in and around San Diego that have become cross-border arms of the powerful Tijuana drug cartel controlled by the Arellano Felix family -one of Mexico's largest and most

violent trafficking organizations. U.S. officials also confirmed that some members of the Arellano Felix family had sought refuge in Cali-fornia and could solt be in the United States,

The indictments charge that 10 young men acted as bodyguards for Arellano Felix operatives and par-ticipated in missions to secure the family's control over drug trafficking along the border.

where reporters and cameramen were

reat interest to prosecutors because of what is said to be her exceptionally close relationship with her daughter. Prosecutors wanted to ask Ms. Lewis

Ms. Lewis reportedly was a party to secretly taped discussions about ways in

When agents intercepted Ms. Lewinsky at that bar on Jan. 16 and questioned her, she immediately called her mother, who took a train from New York

Lawyers for Ms. Lewinsky have now filed motions with the chief federal District Court judge here, Norma Holloway Johnson. One motion seeks to quash the testimony. A similar motion on behalf of her mother was rejected.

there was no enforceable agreement.

Mr. Ginsburg has said that a possibility

RUSSIA: Sale to Iraq Under Suspicion

Continued from Page 1

hen, raised the issue in discussions in sensitive or illicit transactions have oc-Moscow with members of the Russian Parliament on Thursday and that he in- export controls, no customs inspections tended to raise it with his Russian coun-

terpart, Igor Sergeyev.]
The purported evidence of an illicit deal is one element of a close collaboration between Moscow and Baghdad on maners of interest to the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq, the group authorized by the Security Council to eliminate Iraq's capability to make weapons of mass de-

struction, according to the sources. U.S. intelligence agencies have privately warned UN officials that Russian intelligence operatives are spying on the commission and its personnel in New York and overseas, the sources said. They have further warned that the Russian spy agency may have passed some of the information it collects directly to Iraq.

Several American officials confirmed Wednesday that the FBI was aware of the Russian intelligence operation. A spokesman for the Russian mission to the United Nations, Kirill Speransky, declined to comment, saying, "We usu-ally do not comment on any information concerning intelligence activities."

He denied that Moscow had evaded sanctions against Iraq. as the London re foreign intelliger to block specific visits by the UN comton three sources. mission to sensitive sites in Iraq, for Moscow has successfully put pressure on a Russian specialist on ballistic raissiles and chemical weapons, Nikita

tions, the sources said. to be identified, said: "People are sus- March 1996 deliberately disseminated picious that there really is some reason

commission's most sensitive inspec-

they don't want us to find stuff out." A detailed investigation by the comssion of Iraq's purchase of missile gyroscopes from Russia in 1995, in vithe government were involved in that transaction — not just corrupt middle-men or brokers, as Moscow contended.

that, at a minimum, the Russian govemment has looked the other way when curred. "Is it just that Moscow has no and no law enforcement? Or is Russia willfully trying to help traq? The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle.

a senior U.S. intelligence official said. Since October, when Iraq announced that it would no longer accept the UN inspection procedures that had been in place since 1992. Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov and other senior Russian officials have been urging the Security Council to adopt less stringent rules, Iraq has accused American members of the UN inspection teams of spying for the United States, a charge denied by the UN and the Clinton administration.

In some cases, Moscow has made little effort to conceal efforts to learn what the commission is doing and to influence the scope and timing of certain sensitive inspections, according to sources.

In the summer of 1996, for example, a

team of inspectors retreated to a remote English town for a training exercise to prepare for a surprise visit to a highly sensiove Iraqi site. After checking into a local hotel, an inspector recognized a Russian official who was later identified as the London resident for the Russian foreign intelligence service, according

Each night, the official was observed reasons that remain unclear. In addition, attempting to debrief Russian members of the inspection team, the sources said. When inspectors eventually tried to reach the site targeted by the commission, they

Smidovitch, to stop leading some of the were blocked by Iraqi military forces. In another incident cited by several sources, commission officials in charge One foreign diplomat, who asked not of another highly sensitive inspection in false information to members of their evidence that well-established Russian sion matters, approached a senior com-

ing that site would be highly disruptive. Mr. Garilov further threatened that if the inspection went forward, Moscow would



Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev of Russia, left, welcoming William

mass destruction - a threat that com-

tween the two countries were conducted in both capitals hy official delegations. In April 1995, UN officials privately informed diplomats from Russia and oth-

own team about which Iraqi site they had targeted. Shortly afterward, a Russian political counselor in New York, Genadi Gatilov, who is now Moscow's nadi Gatilov, who is now Moscow's germ warfare program. On July 1, the series of their suspicion that a cognizable as naving been propared of their suspicion that a single-cell protein plant, at a site known political counselor in New York, Genadi Gatilov, who is now Moscow's germ warfare program. On July 1, the germ warfare program. On July 1, the said.

Senior Russian diplomats have privately "It is quite clear samething militare." olation of UN sanctions, has produced chief expert in New York on commis- Iraqi government publicly admitted producing tons of anthrax and botulinum defense companies with major links to mission official to complain that inspect- toxin at Al Hakam. The Iraqi officials who participated in the negotiations with Moscow were from Al Hakam, according to the sources. The commission's former oppose implementation of a UN plan for chairman, Rolf Ekeus, who is now

In addition, Mr. Ekeus said, Mr. Primakov and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq have become close friends. Every proposal by Mr. Primakov is ro-

had been working closely with Iraq partly because Moscow had "a dream to come

Senior Russian diplomats have privately told UN officials and U.S. diplomats that Moscow wants a withdrawal of economic sanctions on Iraq soon so Baghdad can sell enough oil to repay an SS hillion debt for its purchases of Russian military equipment before the Gulf War in 1991.

Cohen, the U.S. secretary of defense, before talks Thursday in Moscow. long-term routine monitoring of imports Sweden's ambassador to the United and exports to Iraq related to weapons of States, said be believed that Mr. Primakov mission officials ignored, sources said. According to several accounts of the back and play a much more influential 1995 Iraqi document, negotiations be-

Republican of Washington, said Thurs-

administration does something militarily, it will do it inadequately," he said. Two Democrats, Senators Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, earlier dropped their support for the resolution (Reusers, AP)

Such evidence has stoked concern **ALLIES:** European Patchwork

Continued from Page 1

approval to a statement that their country had more in common with America than

In terms of practical policy-making among his European Union counter-parts, Prime Minister Tony Blair's atpreparations to strike Iraq contradicted tention-seeking bear hug of American his goal of turning Britain into Europe's leader. His approach was anchored in a world that has little to do with the doubly cautious one of the Italian cabinet minister who resorted Wednesday to a double negative to say that he thought it was not possible for Italy not to allow U.S. aircraft to support operations against Iraq from their Italian bases.

Once Italy made its willingness to cooperate less nuclear, France was on its own within Europe in terms of keeping its distance from joining with the United States. Officials in Paris defined the essential difference in the French attitude as one not sharing the military "hypothesis" as long as it felt that trying to convince Mr. Saddam to open up to the UN inspections remained reasonable.

A European official said he saw this line as holding only minimal appeal for other European countries and little sustainability for France itself. The potential yield from the Arab world was questionable, he said, and being seen by the Arabs as isolated within Europe and in the West in general further undermined this reasoning. There was no desirability either, the official insisted, in lining up with France alongside positions held by the Russia of President Boris Yeltsin, or in the systematic French attempt to hold the United States at arm's length.

In Germany, the response was also a very national one. Perhaps recollecting sharp criticism during the Gulf War about Germany's reticence in taking a stand, Chancellor Helmut Kohl labeled Mr. Saddam a criminal and offered the United States full support short of any kind of military participation. In the con-text of Iraq's missile attacks in 1991, the chancellor also expressed what he said was Germany's historic concern and involvement in the welfare of Israel.

A THANK

Insofar as bis position could create dissension and discomfort within the Social Democratic Party, this was good domestic politics hy Mr. Kohl. But it was light years from the stuff of European leadership, and very much the status quo concerning the absence of German ininatives, projection of German military force, or a clear demarcation from American policy objectives.



Lewis Fox, a retired Secret Service officer, entering a Washington court Thursday where the grand jury sits.

AGENTS: The Secret Service Is New Front of Starr Investigation

Continued from Page 1

and Treasury departments and "indicated that our preference is for them to handle that in ways that they determine are in the best interests of fulfilling their mission related to protective services."

informed, if there's anything that we should know of, but we really would prefer that you make it your call on how you proceed on that matter."

Treasury and Instice lawyers are not arguing that members of the Secret Service are protected by executive privilege. Instead, they are trying to carve out a new privilege, arguing that the president's life could ultimately be endangered if he kept his protective detail at a distance out of concern that the agents could be called to reveal conversations or meetings they might wit-

Attorney General Janet Reno, in consultation with Treasury Secretary Robert him Ruhin, will decide whether to argue in court to quash the subpoenas, officials

cision had been made on whether to fight the subpoena, The AP reported. ("Obviously we will try to work with

said. She said the question of ensuring nesday that Mr. Clinton asked a unisecurity and safety of the president is formed officer of the Secret Service posamong the issues being considered.]
If government lawyers move to quash

the subpoenas, they have a single, slim ruling to point to: Late last month, the federal judge presiding over the Jones trial quashed an effort by her lawyers to Mr. McCurry added: "I think, in a trial quashed an effort by her lawyers to sense, they said, "You know, keep us subpoen bundreds of Secret Service no mention of such an encounter in

The judge, Susan Webber Wright, agreed with the president's lawyers that such testimony could "provide those em Pennsylvania and with a Pittsburgh with hostile intent toward the president television station, he described Ms. with important information to use in Lewinsky's visits to the Oval Office as piercing the Secret Service's protec-

Federal courts in Washington are not bound by Judge Wright's order, and she said she was not establishing a new legal privilege for the Secret Service. Never before, officials say, have sub-

poenas been issued for testimony about activities they saw as they protected 'If the agents who are currently em- next week.]

ployed are subpoenaed, this is privileged information," said P. Hamilton Brown, [Ms. Reno said Thursday that no de- executive secretary of the Association of Former Agents of the U.S. Secret Service. "If I were subpoenaed I'd give him my name and remain mute, and let the uniformed officer there," the 20-year everybody concerned. I don't know courts fight this thing out." what the resolution will be," Ms. Reno

ted outside the Oval Office to usher Monica Lewinsky in on a weekend afternoon in late 1995, and that the president and the young intern spent at least 40 minutes alone. The retired officer, Lewis Fox, made obligation to testify continues. As you can

interviews published and broadcast last week. In those interviews, with a local newspaper near his home in southwestern Pennsylvania and with a Pinsburgh typical transactions between an aide bearing documents and a president receiving them.

courthouse where the grand jury met Thursday morning and had no comment as he left. It was not known whether he was questioned before the opposed to far more serious crimes like what agents heard a president say, or grand jury, The AP reported. One source told Reuters that Mr. Fox did not testify, but had been told to return

agent, said that Mr. Fox was a uniformed officer, who would only guard the Oval Office "when it's empty.

veteran said. "When the office is oc-The Washington Post reported Wed- cupied there is an agent there.

CLINTON: Starr's Tough Tactics

Continued from Page 1

temoon Wednesday that a nurse was

summoned. Ms. Lewis appeared red-eyed, shaken and pale when she left the federal courthouse building, and was escorted by court

security officers but walked without aid. Her extended appearance delayed testimony by Ms. Lewinsky, who left her father's Los Angeles home on Thursday to return to Washington. Mr. Ginsburg used unusually sharp

language in criticizing Mr. Starr's de-cision to force Ms. Lewis 10 appear before the grand jury. "They're putting all kinds of pressure on her, and stress," he told the Los Angeles Times. "It's ber daughter, for God's sake; it's her daughter. Disgraceful. It's disgraceful.' Ms. Lewis's appearance lasted far longer than expected, in part apparently because she had to step out of the grand

jury room frequently to compose herself and consult with her attorney. A witness is not permitted to hring an attorney into the grand jury room but may step ontside at will for consultation.

Mr. Ginsburg said Ms. Lewis's appearance before prosecutors and the 23-

member jury, which meets behind closed doors, was "more than rough and In a statement issued later, Ms. Lewis's lawyer, Billy Martin, said: "She was

imagine, this is a very emotionally draining and difficult time for my client." Even prosecutorial staff left the afternoon session Wednesday looking somber and subdued, reporters said.

sion of her former husband's name, had sought to quash the grand jury subpoena but was compelled to testify. Parents can be compelled to testify [Mr. Fox appeared hriefly in the against their children, unlike spouses. Legal experts say, however, that to com-

pel a mother to testify against a daughter

in a case involving sexual allegacions, as

Ms. Lewis, who uses a shortened ver-

murder, is highly unusual. Ms. Lewis's fiancé, R. Peter Straus, a newspaper and radio station owner in subpoena calling for Ms. Lewinsky's New York, told The New York Times Mr. Brown, the former Secret Service that she was "plenty hruised" hy the

> stick to his normal schedule. He received a standing ovation when he spoke to a group of congressional Democrats on Capitol Hill. Later, his motorcade

Ms. Lewis's testimony would be of

how much Ms. Lewinsky had told her about the alleged affair she had with Mr. Clinton, and about reported requests by him or his friend Vernon Jordan that she lie unable to complete her testimony, and her about it under oath in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against Mr. Clinton.

> which a friend of Ms. Lewinsky's, Linda Tripp, could mislead or avoid lawyers in the Jones case. It was Ms. Tripp who taped the discussions and set up a meeting with Ms. Lewinsky at a Virginia bar that federal agents tape-recorded.

to join her daughter.

The other asked Judge Johnson to en-Mr. Clinton, meanwhile, continued to force what Mr. Ginsburg maintains is an agreement with Mr. Starr on immunity for Ms. Lewinsky. Mr. Starr has said

passed before the federal courthouse, remains of an immunity agreement,

EDITORIALS/OPINION

The China Connection

At least six persons who together funneled millions of dollars to President Bill Clintoo's re-election campaign or to the Democratic Party had close ties to the Chinese government or its intelligence agencies. That, at least, is the conclusion of Republican senators who investigated alleged campaign finance abuses in the 1996 election, according to an account in Tuesday's Washington Post based on a Senate draft report.

The draft report maintains that there was "a broad array of Chinese efforts designed to influence U.S. policies and elections through, among other means, financing election campaigns." By law, foreigners are oot permitted to make political donations.

The first thing to be said about these allegations is that they are, for the moment, only that, allegations. During long mooths of Senate committee hearings, no evidence was presented to support them, and apparently little or no evidence is presented in the Republicans' final report. This dearth of detail, we are told, is unfortunate but necessary to protect CIA and FBI sources and methods. But these are damaging charges to level against the six individuals, some of whom are U.S. citizens. And it is just as important not to demonize an entire country based on unproven allegations. There is plenty to criticize in China today without

jumping to unproved cooclusions.

The second thing to be said is that these are serious allegations. Many governments attempt to influence U.S. policy by paying lobbyists, financing trips and other means. If properly disclosed, these are perfectly legal. Bot if China embarked oo a plan to covertly influence U.S. policy, using agents who concealed their ties to the Chinese government, that is a very different matter. If the charges are not true, one would expect the Chinese government to be more forthright in providing in-

rebut them - but Beijing refused to cooperate with the Senate investiga-tion. And one would certainly expect the administration to make it a priority, both as a law enforcement and foreign policy concern, to find out whether the charges are true.

What remains somewhat mystifying is what the Chinese may have hoped to buy, if indeed they planned to funnel \$3 million to U.S. politicians, as al-leged. It is oot clear that they had any reason to fear that Bob Dole would have been less friendly to their interests than Bill Clinton. But it may be that, like many American donors, they simply wanted access to those in power. There is no question that people such as James Riady, John Huang and Yah Lin 'Charlie' Trie enjoyed un-usual access to the White House and its occupants, in large part thanks to their

fund-raising prowess. If the allegations of connections to Chinese agencies are correct, then the casual way in which these individuals seemed to enjoy the run of the White House raises troubling questions of security. And there is oo question, either, but that these individuals represented a particular point of view when it came to U.S. policy toward China—namely, that U.S. objections to China policies, human and the control of the co man rights abuses or unfair trade practices should not stand in the way of smooth U.S.-Chinese relations.

This is above all an American problem, oot a Chinese one. The "For Sale" sign that so many donors thought they read on the White House door was written in English, oot in Chinese, and plenty of American doors found that they coold buy ac-cess, too. While the Justice Department should scrupuloosly investigate the charges of covert influeoce-buying. Congress should be changing the system to make access less of a priceable commodity.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Israel for All Jews

After mooths of wrangling, the best efforts by a special cabinet committee in Israel to resolve a rancorous dispute over "wbo is a Jew" have collapsed. As a result, Reform and Conservative Jews plan to resume their campaign to break the Orthodox rabbinate's mooopoly over cooversions and other rites in Israel. It is unfortunate, although perhaps not surprising, that Orthodox Jews refused to compromise with oon-Orthodox branches of Judaism over whose ment should assure that Israel maintains its identity as a homeland for all Jews, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike.

Since the founding of Israel 50 years ago, the Chief Rabhinical Council, an Orthodox body, has had sole power over cooversions within the country. Lately, however, that policy bas re-legated thousands of immigrants to secood-class citizenship. Immigrants who are childreo of mixed marriages, non-Jewish spouses or in some other category out recognized as Jewish under Orthodox law may not marry or be buried in a Jewish cemetery in Israel, or eveo own certain property,

unless they coovert. For immigrants choosing to convert, the only means available in Israel are run by Orthodox authorities, which require converts to adhere to stringent Orthodox principles. Most Jews by birth in Israel do not themselves observe such standards, yet they qualify for marriage, burial and other rights. Uoderstandably, many immigrants feel that they should be allowed to convert under the oon-Orthodox auspices. Many Israelis also want oon-Orthodox rabbis to condoct marriages.

The Reform and Conservative Jews

have gooe to court to establish their rights over cooversions. Since the Orthodox monopoly is enshrined in tradition but not law, the ooo-Orthodox challengers are expected to win.

The current crisis was precipitated when the Orthodox establishment vowed to win passage of legislation invalidating Reform and Conservative cooversioos. That prospect set off alarms among oon-Orthodox Jews around the world, prompting Prime rites will remain binding. But now, in Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to ask to try to broker a compromise.

Mr. Neeman managed to persuade Reform and Conservative Jews to make major coocessions, ootably by agreeing to let the cooversions themselves remain in the hands of the Orthodox establishmeot if Orthodox rabbis would participate with ooo-Orthodox counterparts in an institute to prepare people for the cooversion rites. in going aloog, noo-Orthodox Jews hoped to gain some legitimacy from the Orthodox establishment, leading eventually to a more flexible approach on the conversioo itself.

But those hopes were wrecked this week when the Chief Rabbinate ruled out a compromise.

The Orthodox rejection may backfire. Partly because of the outcry amoog American Jews, there may not be ecough votes in Parliament to pass the law pushed by Orthodox Jews re-taining their monopoly over cooversions. That is a welcome development. No natioo, least of all Israel, should discriminate against a religious minority. Only by embracing a spirit of tol-erance can Israel remain a beacon to Jews everywhere.

- THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Diplomacy Isn't Enough

The central issue here is oot something that can be responsibly resolved by the give and take of diplomacy. Saddam Hussein continues to defy UN demands that he give up all of his terror weapons, and so he remains an international menace. That is the bedrock issue that cannot be

compromised or finessed. President Clinton's approach deserves bipartisan backing, and certainly it merits far more support than it has received from fair-weather friends abroad. Only the British are actively preparing to take part, although Canada and Germany have offered

It is oot a plan based on inflated expectations. Saddam Hussein, along with a lot of his chemical and biological weapoo programs, probably would survive the assaults being readied. But many of his weapon sites would be destroyed, and the foundations of his rule and support could be further eroded. That may be less than ideal, but most things in this world are.

-Los Angeles Times.

Herald Eribune

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Disaster Ahead - Rethink and Slow Down on Iraq

PARIS — It is the terrifying feeling of watching a disaster about to happen and not seeing bow to stop it. Washington has maneuvered itself into the dreadful position on Iraq where anything it may do is bad, and doing

nothing is worse.

The ''substantial' aerial attacks planned for the middle of this month have now been put off for a couple of weeks. Ostensibly it is to honor the "Olympic truce" while the Games go oo in Nagano, but more realistically it is because the United States is still trying to line op diplomatic support for massive bombing, with less success

than it is claiming. Unless somehow Saddam Hussein agrees to back down on complete, unlimited arms inspectioo demands, unlikely because he thrives oo crisis and doesn't care if his people suffer, Wasbington will carry out its threat.

But it is clear that the military action envisaged will not achieve its stated purpose, to destroy Iraq's chemical, biological and missile warfare capacity and assure that it will oot be rebuilt.

Acknowledging that, some Ameri-can politicians, including House Speak-er Newt Gingrich and right-wing commentators, are urging a land invasion. They talk of 100,000 troops, but if it took 500,000 to liberate little Kuwait. that is clearly an illusion. And AmeriBy Flora Lewis

ca really doeso't want to conquer Iraq. Excessive threats and inflated, unsubstantiated warnings about the devastation Iraq can cause if it is not stopped right away got Washington into the current box. It is the legacy of more than a decade of bad judgment and mismanaged policy toward Baghdad, and most especially of the irresponsible way President George Bush ended the Gulf War in 1991.

Driving on to occupy Baghdad and overturn Saddam would bave been a terrible mistake. But it was oot the only alternative, as so many seem to think. There were many other possibilities to destroy Iraq's military resources and undermine the regime.

It was the first time in military history since the biblical battle of Jericho that a cease-fire applied only to the victor, not the vanquisbed. Saddam was allowed to rescue his helicopters and use his untouched Republican Guard to pot down the Shiite opnising in the south, and when that was achieved to send them north against the Kurds.

Intervention came only a couple of months later, thanks to CNN focusing on the desperate plight of refugees, and Turkey wanting them to go home. Bot while they were protected by the "no-

It arged the Iraqi opposition to resist Saddam and then betrayed them, in its worst fiasco since the Bay of Pigs. Some 2,000 Iraqis exposed to retri-

Some 2,000 Iraqis exposed to redi-bution (nobody knows how many were killed) were eventually evacuated to Guam, where they were kept incom-municado at the big U.S. base until after the 1996 presidential election. With the exception of a fine ABC documeotary last summer which none-theless still failed to probe the wby of U.S. congrations there was no others. U.S. operations, there was no outcry, no congressional or serious press investigation. The most telling disclosure of ABC's program came from former National Security Adviser Brent Scow-croft, who said Washington wanted to provoke a military coup against Sad-

dam, oot to risk a different regime. Saudi Arabia, with its fears of Iran, its distaste for any precedent of overthrowing an Arab regime or possibly dismantling an Arab state, its concern that some autonomy for southern Iraqi Shiites would inspire similar demands from the Shiite majority in its eastern oil province, has been a weighty influence oo Washingtoo all along.

If it is balking now about use of Saudi bases to attack Iraq, it is not for love of Saddam but because of these

fly zone," the Kurdish factions fell to quarreling, and the CIA completely mishandled the situation.

fears plus the certainty of popular outrage. Fractically all states, including the Arabs, want to see Iraq comply with

Security Council resolutions. But that does not mean support for heavy American action. It is self-deluding for Washington to spread what privately some Arab leaders say that would not mind. The macon that they would not mind. The reason they dare not say it publicly is that they know how furious their people would be. This Iraqi dilemma has so many in. Behind the

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Frank Harris

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tricate links with other distinct, major U.S. foreign policy interests — Israel-Palestine peace, relations with Russia, sanctions on Iran, Turkey's role in NATO and Cyprus, and others—that it is evident that the consequences of big and almost inevitably indecisive action are incalculable.

The United States cannot just cave in to Saddam. Bot the course it is now following would add more disasters to its record there, and leave the dictator once again the sly winner.

Some face-saving compromise on the extent of inspections seems to be available. Washington would do better to take it and, with a little patience and hopefully more skill, seek to topple him, than to flaunt its firepower.

There are things bombs can't do, and there is oo real urgency except the desire to show that America can't be defied.

Others argue for more central

bank regulation of currency

movements, or new regulatory structures attached to the IMF

or the Bank for International

Settlements, in order to impose

greater transparency on inter-

national monetary transactions.

Council in Washington, which

firmly backs globalization,

oonetheless proposes a broad

'global economic summit,'

political in nature, to assure that

poor countries are oot margin-

alized, and to respood to con-

The Overseas Development

People First: The World Economy Needs Regulation

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Conventional comment says that the statemobilized Japanese and South Korean mercantile systems, together with authoritarian Singapore "Confucian" capitalism. and the quasi-feudal "crony capitalism" of Indonesia and Thailand, all have fallen to the political model. Francis Fukuyama, known competitive pressures of liberal

and globalist economic forces. Asia, the argument says, will be forced to reorganize itself on the model of American capitalism, to its sbort-term pain but its loog-term advantage. International investors should be protected (otherwise they might oot come back), but local companies, the labor force and society will have to suffer economic purge, oew deregula-tions and greater foreign eco-

nomic penetration. Cooventional comment also

AMBRIDGE, England

has been just two months

since the IMF advanced its plan

to manage South Korea's eco-

nomic crisis. The Fund has

already been forced to relax

some macroeconomic targets, on

inflation, money supply and fis-

cal balance. Now new problems

are emerging from the Fund's

insistence that market discipline

and its U.S. backers have mis-

read Korean fundamentals, the

consequences will prove even

tionary policies the Fund has

recently been forced to amend.

lie oot in excessive regulatioo but in the hasty dismantling of a

carefully constructed system of

symptoms today, arose pre-

cisely because Seoul aban-

The roots of the Korean crisis

more damaging than the defla-

If, as seems likely, the IMF

alone will revive the country.

makes a political claim, that the free market is linked to democracy, Authoritarian Asian ecooomies, it is said, can recover only by adopting the democratic

for having buried history in 1989, writes in the latest issue of the New York moothly Commentary that "the well-documented correlatioo between stable democracy and a high level of development" will increasingly favor the rule of law and greater popular par-ticipatioo" in Asia.

The crisis thus has been a blessing in disguise, discrediting false political models.

However, the social political cooditions created by crisis in Indonesia are oot self-

evidently conducive to stable democracy. Indonesia experiences a mounting level of violence directed against the Chinese minority, which dominates the economy. And serious, potentially anti-Western political tensions are very strong elsewhere in the region.

A second interpretation of the Asian crisis is essentially economic and very pessimistic. It proceeds from the same diagnosis — that the high level of savings in Asia, together with a very large amount of Western investment, much of it speculative and volatile, has combined to produce a crisis of

overinvestment and overproduction, with a vast oversupply of goods for saturated markets.

process has only begun, and ance agency, commenting that could produce global dumping even a casino has rules. of goods, more loan defaults and further devaluations, leading to world deflation and depression reminiscent of the Great Depression. One does not have to accept

this distressing analysis to think that the world economy needs new and better regulation, rather than the accelerated deregulatioo recommended by American triumphalists - for example, the global investment liberalization oow sought by the United States in discussions at the OECD.

The need for oew regulation was one of the geoerally ac-knowledged themes of the World Economic Forum in Davos this month. George, Soros, goods for saturated markets. the financier, has proposed a it goes on to argue that this oew international credit insur-

ment horizons and create its

sioo by allowing large but in-

dundancy easier could be ben-

eficial in the long run, if com-

bined with universal unem-

ployment insurance and retrain-

attitudes and institutions is re-

quired, and that cannot occur

evernight. In a deflationary

phase, such fundamental shifts

are likely only to exaggerate

between business and govern-

ment. Civil service reforms, in-

time to consider an alternative

program of structural and in-

stitutional reform that places

The writer, who teaches eco-

among bureaucrats.

Bot a sea change in Korean

efficient operations.

ing programs.

cerns that globalization has proved destabilizing in effect and is actually lowering living standards for the majority.

Another interpretation of what has happened in Asia, which reflects a radical critique of globalization itself, argues that the crisis has followed an irresponsible American-promoted drive to deregulate world markets and production to its own commercial advantage. Mickey Kantor has said that the IMF is a "bat-

kets to U.S. exports. own versioo of reckless expan-Speculative and unsustainefficient firms (or corporate able development in Asia has raiders) to take over small but been promoted and rewarded, while the social and cultural costs of the destruction of es-Lifetime employment and tablished economic structures

tering ram" to open Asian mar-

company welfare plans may also need reform. Making rehave been ignored. Critics would say that this program has been rationalized by a oaive market determinism. product of the last 20 years, which holds, on the basis of faith rather than evidence, that the universal search for individual self-aggrandizement antomatically promotes collective

Intelligent discussion of what to do next requires answers about where we now are.

social and economic conflicts. As for crony capitalism, the solution lies in strengthening Is this crisis a positive correctioo in a fundamentally bethe coordinating function of nign process of progressive government, oot in weakening global economic integration oo the American model? it, so that Seoul can set clear limits as to the proper relations

Is it a deflationary crisis leading to a collapse of currencies and markets in the West, as well cluding salary increases, will make bribery less attractive as in Asia? Does it involve important political dangers? Is it an episode in a reckless Given the shortcomings of the IMF's rescue package, it is

attempt to remake the world ecocomy, with destructive social consequences that could be as momentous as those of 19th century colonialism?

long-term growth, not quick fixes, at the top of the agenda. These issues are fundamental to the decisions that will be taken in coming months on innomics at Cambridge University, is author of "The Politvestment regulation or deregulatioo, transparence, further ical Economy of Industrial market opening and national policies oo global finance. Policy." He contributed this

International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Zola's Trial

PARIS - Every succeeding day of the Zola trial adds fuel to popular excitement. What will be the upshot of the whole business? The Herald has obtained the views of competent journalists of the Figaro. M. Calmette thinks it may be ex-pected that a revision of the Dreyfus case is now certain. M. Rochefort, on the other hand, regards M. Zola's conviction as equally assured. A writer in the Gaulois complains that anarchy prevails in the army, in the law courts and in the street. He calls upon M. Félix Faure to exercise his constitutional power to put a

stop to this state of things. 1923: 'Gypsy' Earrings

NEW YORK - Beauty specialists are sounding a warning to women to "watch their ears." Modern fashions are creating what may develop imp a ating what may develop into a munist in the United States.

new malady. After the fad for beavy "gypsy" earnings is over many women will find their ears are all awry. It is not unusual for such of these ornaments to weight two, three and even four ounces. They are worn during the day and evening and practically every day. This constant wear pulls the ear down into an ugly friangle.

1948: Red Hollywood

NEW YORK - W. Frank Watkins, District Director of Immigration, said that a deportation order had been made against German-born Hans Eisler, a Hollywood music composer described by government officials as a Communist Eisler is a citizen of Austria and brother of Gerhardt Eisler, who is now in government custody at Ellis Island. Gerhardt is de-

Reform for the Long Term in South Korea

doned two established policies: rarely tied to specific favors; investment coordination and managed competition. Foreign debt doubled from

1994 to 1997, to more than \$100 billioo, reflecting a borrowing spree among corporations eager to expand. Fueling this debt were 30 oeophyte merchant banks, half of them less than two years old.

The problem here was not overregulatioo but regulatory failure. The consequence is evideot in the balance sheets. Two-thirds of the \$20 billioo that these merchant banks borrowed abroad has a maturity of less than a year. Almost all of that \$20 billion was lent on as private-sector debt. long-term debt with more than a year's maturity.

economic checks and balances. Crooy capitalism? This is a recent feature in South Korea. Overcapacity and corporate collapses, Korea's principal

manufacturers were subordinated to national plans. Crony

capitalism appeared in the last decade, as government guidelines were gradually abandooed. and a free-for-all of shady political exchanges ensued. Further financial liberaliza-

tion, the IMF believes, will allow foreign institutions to put South Korea's bouse in order. But these are the same institutions that lent so mocb to its managed merchant banks. And these same institutions are oow defying "market logic" by asking Seoul to assume a large proportion of

Proposals to restrain corporate expansion through foreign takeovers may make more sense. But the takeover me-Money has long flowed from chanism has serious downsides, business into politics, but it was as is evident in any advanced

Look Back for a Crash Course

time of ecocomic boom. Far to the west of the establisbed industrial centers of the world economy, across the broad ocean, an industrial revolotion is in progress. Mam-moth infrastructure projects lay the groundwork for cities and factories where before only

rude farmers had dwelt. Natural resources are tapped. and rising exports of resourcebased products raise living standards both in the new boom economies and in the older industrial core. A flow of manufactured goods begins and grows as the emerging indus-tries find compeniove niches.

All this is funded by a flood of capital out of the established financial centers seeking higher returns, and willing to bear some extra risks as well.

But all is oot well. Corrupt government officials have been siphoning off unbelievable amounts of money from statefunded infrastructure projects. Revelations of the extent of corruption lead to legislative censure of the truth-tellers.

Meanwhile, the greatest financial institutions have become overextended, pouring their money into enterprises doomed to failure. When a sudden shock lays bare the extent of official comuption and of unsound private business practices, capital stampedes out, back to the industrial core, no matter what interest rates are paid or equity terms are offered.

And with a shattering crash, financiers - those whose derstand that large loans to Washington Post.

houses have been the vacation retreats of oational presidents, and who have been the business partners of close relatives of national leaders — go bankrupt. East Asia in 1997-1998? Yes, of course. But also the United States of America in

1873-1874. British and other European investors reacted theo just as American and other investors are reacting now: by pulling their capital out of the eoterprises and economies that only a year before they had seen as profitable gold mines.

We know bow this story ends in the absence of international intervention and support. Back in 1873 there was no IMF. The Bank of England saw its mandate as narrowly limited to British financial crises.

British and European capital fled the United States. The amount of railroad miles built in the United States fell by 80 percent, as the country entered a depression that was not to lift for oearly half a decade. Until 1933, followed 1873 which had the name of "Great Depression." Now we are watching the same movie, but we have a chance to give it a different ending. Now we have an IMF. Now we have a U.S. Treasury and a

world economy as a whole. Now we have central bankers

Federal Reserve that under-

WASHINGTON — It is a By J. Bradford DeLong cushion the adjustment to a sudden loss of confidence and provide liquidity to keep the engine of capitalist developmeot greased can do enormoos

good at little risk. But they can do their job and make a better ending to this movie only if politicians are willing to give Messrs. Cam-dessus and Fischer, Rubin and Summers elbow room.

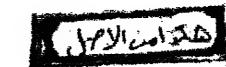
A good ending will not make sure that every overenthusiastic speculator or crony capitalist loses his or her shirt. A good ending will not make sure that every East Asian construction or manufacturing worker keeps his or her job. A good ending will not keep East Asian demand for American products as high as in the past, or lower the American trade deficit.

A good ending to this movie will, however, make the East Asian recessions of 1998-1999 that follow the East Asian fi-nancial crisis of 1997 small. To the extent that the politi-

cians seeking bot-buttoo issues demand a more perfect world than international central bankers - with their blunt, imperfect tools and powers -- can deliver, they lesseo our chance to make a better ending to today's movie than the movie of a ceotury and a quarter ago.

The writer, a professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley, was U.S. deputy assistant Treasury secretary for economic policy stand the need to safeguard the from 1993 to 1995. He conthe largest and most prominent and finance ministers who un- tributed this comment to The

OPINION/LETTERS



non on Iraq

Practically all states, including the Practically an acases, mentioned was to see Iraq comply with Council resolutions that sizes not mean support for American action. It is self to provide your privately some Arab leaders in would not mind. The reason the functions show the functions their people would be functioned their people would be

This trap diemma has so many a Acceptant policy interests and a so many a series trained to series of the policy interests and the series of the policy interests and the series of the policy interests and the series of the series Palestine perce, relations with Russ Parestine passes fram, Turkey's role w PATO and Cycrus, and others that de evident that the consequences of by American inestrably indecisive and

The United States cannot just caven Saddam. But the course it is not delicating would ado more disasters is record there, and leave the diction once again the air winner. Some face-saving compromise of

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three consecutive victories in the Greater New York Bridge
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Lapt Chan, Jim Krekovins.

Brad Man, Jim Krekovins. Brad Moss and Elizabeth Reich, all of Manhattan; Jon Heller of Brooklyn and Phillip Alder of Manhasset, New York, took the 1997 title recently, Playing at Hooors Club, 117 East 57th Street, they defeated Mark Feldman

of Manhattan and his team by The diagramed deal was decisive. At one table Alder and Krekorian, North and South, landed in four spades

Behind the Smoking Gun, A Secret Talking-Pointer

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Like the pur-loined letter in Edgar Allan Poe's story, the smoking gun in the most re-cent Clinton scandal is in plain sight. The evidence that strikes dread in the

White House is a three-page document called the "talking points." Nobody has yet disputed that Monica Lewinsky gave the points to Linda Tripp to influence her testimooy about a third woman, Kathleen Willey, in preparations for the Paula Jones mal.

Ms. Tripp had said publicly that she saw Mrs. Willey, lipstick smeared and blouse untucked, in the White House after what Mrs. Willey claimed was a pass made at her by the president. The purpose of the talking points, transmitted by Ms. Lewinsky, was to get Ms. Tripp to change her story in an affidavit

The person or persons unknown who drafted or dictated the talking points urged Ms. Tripp to swear to a more recent conversation

with Mrs. Willey.

"As a result of my conversation with her and subsequent reports that showed she had tried to enlist the help of someone else in her lie that the president sexually harassed her, the talkingpointer directed Ms. Lewinsky to suggest that Ms. Tripp say, "I now do not believe that what she claimed happened

Existential dread in the White House is the feeling of standing atop the world on a trap door.

really happened. I now find it completely plausible that she herself smeared her lipstick, untucked ber blouse, etc."

White House aides know that few young interns use phrases like "subsequent reports." Question: Who was the talking-pointer? He or she or they seem to have been suborning perjury, tampering with a wimess and using Ms. Lewinsky as an accessory in obstructing justice.

That helps explain why immunity talks broke dowo. Ms. Lewinsky's lawyers were reported ready to bave her assert a sexual relationship with the president, which is on crime, but were apparently not willing to let her ideoutly the person who may have enlisted her in a conspiracy to suborn perjury, which is a crime.

It also explains the existential dread

palpable in the White House today, despite the bravado of the counterattack and the public's laudable aversion to invasion of privacy. The author of the talking points will likely be found, is in real danger of going to jail, and may

not want to go alone or for long. Why did the talking-pointer take the chance of using Ms. Lewinsky as a conduit for changing Ms. Tripp's testimony about Mrs. Willey?

Because the Willey episode, if it

occurred as initially described, could be a presidency-breaker. The Lewinsky affair (if it was not all a figment of her imagination) was consensual and could be forgiven by a cluck-clucking but prosperous majority.

But when a job applicant is grabbed and fondled by an executive, chief or otherwise, that is outright sexual harassment. Because this applicant's testimony is given reluctantly, it is

especially damning.
Is it any wonder that Ms. Lewinsky's help was urgently sough!? Not only was she needed to deny any relationship of her owo, but to transmit a document that would shape another's sworn testimony. Having placed her in such a key position, the talking-pointer was eager to meet her career demands.

That in turn could explain the heat on Vernon Jordan to repeat his Webster Hubbell benefaction and to get her a job outside Washington.

It could explain the spectacle of the United Nations delegate, Bill Richardson, making a pilgrimage to her Watergate apartment building with his staff to offer this former intern a job in his New York office.

And that explains some of the White House staff fear. Somebody probably told the presidential secretary, Betty Currie, to make this happen; she then told John Podesta, deputy chief of staff, as he must have recounted to the grand jury; he then passed the order to Ambassador Richardson, who obeyed with alacrity.

But can you legally offer someone a federal job in consideration for valuable private service — such as keeping quiet or influencing a witness's testimony — that the employee will perform? Those in the offering chain aware of such a deal may run afoul of Section 211 of the Criminal Code, 'acceptance or solicitation to tibtain appointive public office."

Existential dread in the White House is the feeling of standing atop the world oo a trap door. I remember that feeling, "Things are in the saddle and ride mankind."

The New York Times

Give U.S. Consumers Credit Where It's Due

By Stanley Lebergott

on the world economy should be held in Calcutta or Lagos. Or at least Newark, New Jersey. Fewer fine minds might feel the need to travel.

MEANWHILE

But those attending would get a closer sense of real world priorities. As it is, the splendid hotels,

high-fashion shops and millionaires on the ski slopes Davos, Switzerland, provided the appropriate background for the harsb words that the U.S. first lady had last week for American consumers and "the messages of American culture."
Hillary Rodham Clinton's

prepared remarks at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos began with openhanded praise for the "free market." which she said has "the greatest capacity to create employment, income, wealth and investment." But in the question period, she followed with an extended indictment:

1. "We are creating a consumer-driven culture that promotes values and ethics that undermine both capitalism and democracy,

MIDDLETOWN, Con-occticut — Conferences ic [and] postponement of ic [and] postponement of gratification ... historically associated with capitalism.

3. "Because we are dominated by commercial televisioo, we have a relentless, unstopping message of con-sumer materialistic pleasure. Exporting that cannot be good for any culture.

Her conclusion? "Schools, families, religious organizations, associations like scouthelp balance "the messages of the materialistic culture. Before the scouts arrive,

what about this "consumer-driven culture?" Pogo comes to mind: We have met the enemy and he is us. Who creates What they decide

to buy creates the

marvels of income

and employment.

this "consumer-driven culture" but 270 million Americans?

Who should "drive" the American free market if not consumers? They do not always follow the injunctions of 'the best and the brightest.'

and newspapers printed on million-dollar presses or buys more expensive clothing than what Wal-Mart sells might be

YOU HEARD ME

IT'S A RIGHT WING

PLOT TO POISON YOUR BREAKFAST

Indeed, 90 percent of the reluctant to pass judgment. American work force produces Others know that "consumer-driven culture" was in consumer goods and services. Some directly - food, medithe American grain long before cine, Polartec jackets. Some anyone discovered that "conindirectly — tractors, lettuce boxes, bottling machines. Those products also generate sumer capitalism is undermining the work ethic and postponement of gratification. It was, after all, oo July 4,

most of the nation's income. 1776, that Thomas Jefferson Do American consumer recorded in his daybook: "seven pair of women's gloves, for 20 shillings." pleasures reek more of "ma-terialism" than those of Switzerland? Many of us might hesitate to aim such Later records show more criticism at other consumers. material consumption: His Anyone who takes a 100-10n unending book purchases became the original Library plane to visit ski slopes, or 2. In fact, she said, "con- They even ignore the noisiest even a one-ton car to the theat- of Congress. A few bottles contributed this com sumer capitalism" is under- advertisers. What they decide er, who accumulates books still remain of the many cases The New York Times.

of wine he shipped from France to Virginia. Also, what of straitlaced John Adams, who began his long day's work before dawn?

As be wrote Jefferson close to their deaths: "Mind your own husiness! Do no wrong! Do all the good you can! Eat your canvas back ducks! Drink your burgundy, sleep your Siesta and Trust in God!"

Now there's a message for

The writer, a professor of economics at Wesleyan University, is the author "Pursuing Happiness: American Consumers in the Twentieth Century." He contributed this comment to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to buy then creates those mar-

vels of employment and in-

come that Mrs. Clinton praised

at the start of the speech.

Perspectives on Clinton

I am 89 years old and have voted for the Republican candidate for the U.S. presidency since I cast my first vote for Herbert Hoover against Franklin Roosevelt in 1932.

But I would vote for Bill Clinton today if he were campaigning again for the presidency. Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address was the best I have ever beard, and made quite clear the marvelous job he has done during his final term. When Mr. Clintoo took questions

from reporters in the Oval Office last week in the company of the visiting British prime minister, Tony bushands and fathers.

Blair, I was shocked that the president was asked about his personal problems. I was embarrassed that a guest of the United States, Mr. Blair, had to listen to such inappropriate questions.

The president should make a rule that, during all meetings with visiting heads of state or foreign dignitaries, only quesoons dealing with issues relevant to the two countries will be accepted. JAMES E WARRING.

Herrliberg, Switzerland.

Your letters to the editor since the Clintoo scandal became known appear to condone alleged behavior that most women would find abhorrent in their

Why haven't you heard from feminists who place sexual harassment at the top of their agenda?

Should we justify President Bill Clinton's reported exploitation of women just because of fears that his resignation would affect the economy, compromise various peace negotiadons or set back women's issues?

The United States, its government and its institutions are far greater than ooe man!

LOUISE W. DEMAKIS. Westport, Connecticut.

Hazardous Balloonists

Regarding "Bolloonists Give Up:

China's Refusal to Clear Overflight Doonts Round-the-World Attempt" (Feb. 5) and "Too Late. Chino Clears Flight by Balloonists" (Feb. 6): As a frequent air traveler in China,

appland the Chinese authorities concern for air safety - they do know the limitations of their air traffic control system - and condemn what is essendally an adventure by rich enthusiasts.

Air travel in China is risky enough without the additional and avoidable hazards posed by balloons in the jet stream, where both commercial and military jets operate.

MICHAEL R. K. MUDD. Hong Kong.

BOOKS

SPOILS OF WAR: The Human Cost of America's Arms Trade

By John Tirman. 310 pages. \$25. Free Reviewed by Colman McCarthy

RITICS of American militarism disinguish between hot violence and cold violence. Hot is the slaughtering of buman beings close up, as in Vietnam when peasants were shot - "greased" was the term — because they may have been hiding Vietcong. Weapons fire, bloodied bodies drop. Cold violence occurs when policy or boardroom decisions mean death and suffering to people well removed by time and geography.
In "Spoils of War." John Tirman ex-

amines with dispassionate resolve and clarity the mechanics of cold violence the specialty of arms lobbyists, corporate weapons-exporters, pro-military politicians, Washington policymakers and think-tank rationalizers who are remote from the gore and madness than can result when America's technology of deathfighter jets, attack helicopters, missiles, land mines, tanks, guns — is profitably sold to client states. Tirman's reporting, which is rich with historical allusions and fair-minded analysis of what he calls "the ingrained habits and shibboleths of the arms business," aligns well with the thought of the French worker-philosopher Simone Weil in 1945: "Whether the mask is labeled Fascism, Democracy, or Dictatorship of the Proletariat, our great adversary remains the Apparams — the bu-reaucracy, the police, the military...No matter what the circumstances, the worst betrayal will always be to subordinate ourselves to this Apparatus, and to trample underfoot, in its service, all human values

in ourselves and in others. In Tirman's mind, such subordination prevails today in the United States: "In a

By Alan Truscott

given to the values underlying the promiscuous provision of lethal weaponry."

Tittnan, executive director of the

Winston Foundation for World Peace in Washington for the past 10 years, reports that in the mid-1990s the U.S. weapons industry had a 70 percent market share of sales to Third World nations. More than \$200 billioo worth of arms will have been exported by the end of the decade. With "Spoils of War," Tirman joins a worthy list of independent analysts who, in season and out, keep assembling the facts of America's modern arms trade. Among them are Seymour Melman, author of "The Permanent War Econo-: William Hartung of the World Policy Institute; Sanford Gottlieb, author of "Defense Addiction: Can America Kick the Habit?"; Ruth Sivard and her annual report, World Military and Social Expenditures, and A. Ernest Fitzgerald,

author of "High Priests of Waste."
"Spoils of War" differs journalistically from the toil of those authors by reporting from the field on bow cold violence in the United States becomes hot violence in the villages of southeastern Turkey. In the name of quashing Kurdish dissent and guerrillas by military force, which meant avoiding any compromising to gain political soluoons, in recent years Turkey's military has killed thousands of villagers and displaced 2.5 million. By Tirman's numbers. Ankara's military might as well be a satellite army of the United States. From 1984 to 1993, Turkey received \$6 billion in military aid. During 1991 to 1995, Washington supplied four-fifths of Turkey's military imports.
As a partisan whose moral and polit-

ical preferences unmistakably favor nonviolent means of conflict resolutioo rather than violent, Tirman is obviously at odds with the ideas and actions of people in the arms industry and their legislative backers. His challenge as a country now in the grip of a debate over writer is to lay out the facts nonideo-'values,' it is astounding that so little heed is logically so that his conclusion — that

the human suffering in one war zone or another "is a symptom of a systematic malfunction in a decrepit and morally vacuous American foreign policy" --cannot be idly dismissed as just more

liberal grousing against militarists.

Seasoned by his many years of work in Washingtoo, Tirman ably meets the challenge. Strong sentiments are voiced but no shrillness. The impact of factual and credible information carries his argu-ments. One of these is that president after president has not allowed the grisly resuits of the arms-export business to dampen support for arms corporations — Lockheed Martin, United Technologies, Sikorsky, General Dynamics and others - that sell abroad.

T may surprise some readers that Jimmy Carter was one of the enthusiasts. As a candidate in June 1976, Tirman reports. Carter preached: "We cannot be both the world's leading champion of peace and the world's leading supplier of the weapons of war.' Once he was elected, however, the fervor vanished. Early in his presidency, Tirman writes, Carter "approved the largest sale of U.S. hardware in the decade -200 advanced fighter jets to Saudi Ara-bia, Egypt, and Israel." Later be recommended sending the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), an exceptionally advanced technology, to Iran and Saudi Arabia. Tirman's invaluable criticism — also on display in his earlier books, "The Fallacy of Star Wars" and "Empty Promise" — isn't likely to run out of ideas and deeds worthy of scom. In addition to the overall excellence of the reporting in "Spoils of War," it will remain topical for some time. The hot violence goes on.

Colman McCarthy, who directs the Center for Teaching Peoce and teaches courses on nonviolence at four Washington-area schools, wrote this for The Washington Past.

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BRIDGE

after a complex auction. West led the club ace South ruffed, cashed the

A group of six players bas set a record by scoring NORTH **▲ K tD 4 3** VA753 EAST Lapt Chan, Jim Krekorian. WEST

WEST

Brad Moss and Elizabeth

9642 ♣ K Q J 9 6 3 2 SOUTE 0 KQ 16 6 4 2

spade ace and led the dia- Since a trump remained in the king, pinning the jack, again ruffed in the closed trick.

The position was oow as imps. shown at right. Krekorian led the diamond ten and West ruffed with the spade jack. Krekorian discarded the club ten from dummy and

could not then be defeated. West led his last club and ♥9842 South ruffed in his hand with the spade queen. Another diamond lead was nuffed by West and overruffed in dummy. The spade king removed West's last

trump and a low heart was led.

mond queen. This was al- dummy, the heart king was In the replay East played in

> **♠** K I6 4 ♥A753 WEST EAST ♥ K 10

> > SOUTH **Q Q 18**

against four spades, and lowed to win, and he played the last trick for the defense. East took the diamond ace four clubs, which could have and played the club king, been made but failed by a The Chan team gained 11

4QJ632



Dining at the Klong Damnoen Saduak floating market near Bangkok.

A Thai Feast for the Eye And Also for the Palate

By Patricia Wells

ANGKOK - It is a purely serene glimpse of paradise. The calm and pristine restaurant with teak, ceramics and fine Thai silk is afloat in a white snapper, topped with lime juice and just magnificent pool of lotus blossoms. The a gentle hit of chilles. cuisine is an intelligent hlend of traditional and modern Thai cooking, intended to merge rice balls in sweetened egg in coconut milk, a feast for the eyes and one for the palate. The and soothing pumpkin custard. Lemongrass corner of the Sukhothai Hotel, a gleaming white complex that, too, is a well-considered mix of modern and traditional, with ancient

temple doors, a palm-lined drive and six acres of lily poods, in the center of Bangkok. In these harmonious and elegant surroundings, diners at Celadon (which takes its name from the ceramic glaze as well as the grayish yellow-green color of traditional and modern

Asian pottery) can choose from a labyrinthine menu of Thai fare. Seated on chairs upholstered in crisp beige linen and dining off thick, hand-crafted celadon plates on white linen place mats, we feasted on a palate-stimulating spicy beef salad, paired with

plenty of cucumbers and raw onions for cooling down the palate. The winged bean salad was a perfect balance of spicy and sour, with lots of giant shrimp in a peanut-based sauce. And other starters - such as deep-fried minced pork and shrimp wrapped in bean curd sheets and rice flour crepe stuffed with crab meat, minced chicken and mushrooms -- showed how cleverly the Thai chefs borrow curries from India and stir-fry and noodles from China.

SOUP IMITATES ART Thai soups are an art, and one of the most popular is tom yum goonglai rue goong maenam, a spicy sour soup that hlends oger prawns and river prawns, seasoned with fragrant lemongrass, lime juice and fresh garden chili. The brilliant red, pink, and greeo soup is the perfect hlend of the iodine richness of the sea and the herbal freshness of the garden, a true layering of flavors, harmonious and so evenly spiced that one marvels at the cook's controlled hand. Heavier, but no less fulfilling was the also popular tomkha gai, the regal herb-, chicken-and cocoout-based soup that balances sweet,

spice and fatty richness. Main courses include no less than 13 curries, and ours was one of the most traditional, a southern Indian-inspired chicken curry gaeng mussaman nuea rue gai - a geotly sweet dish, and one of the rare Thai dishes containing potatoes - that was all spicy mellowness, laced with Indian herbs and one that

left you with a lingering smile on your palate.
Despite common belief, Thai food is not universally hot, for paralyzed palates oo longer note the subtleties of fine cuisine. So we followed with a very delicate steamed

Desserts offer a gentle close, with glutinous digestion.

A total cootrast to the elegant Celadoo was an opeo-air feast at the northern city of Chiang Mai, where we dined at the Pongyang Gardeo Resort on a shaded teakwood terrace, surrounded by the soothing sounds and midday coolness of a rushing waterfall. Seated at bare woodeo picnic tables and sipping the cooling Thai Singha beer, we feasted on simple cooo-

try fare. Abuodant platters of raw vegetables - green beans, berbs, lettuce -- revved up our appetites, which were ready by the time the parade of courses arrived: a rich meat salad of pork that had been marinated io salt, sugar and coriander and then

dried in the sun; Burmese pork curry, and minced chicken salad.

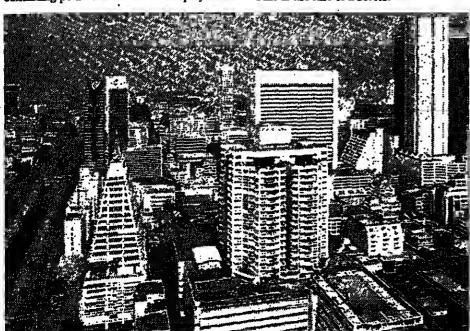
WO highlights of the meal were the beautifully bitter grilled pork in fermented tamarind sauce, which perfectly balanced out the heat and richness of the other fare. Then came a whole Cambodian carp-like fish, deep-fried so the skin was crisp and vibrant, smothered with fresh chilies and topped with a carpet of fried basil leaves. The days' soup - the traditional tom yam ghung was refreshing, a mix of half chickeo stock and half shrimp stock, laced with lemon juice,

galingale, lemongrass, chilies and shrimp. Dessert could not have been more simple: giant platters of papaya, watermeloo and pineapple, which the locals sprinkle with salt for

perfect digestion. Celadon, Sukhothai Hotel, 13/3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand. Tel: (66-2) 287-0222, extension 5722. Fax: (66-2) 287-4980. Open daily. All major credit cards. Vegetarian menu at 520 bahi (\$11), and tasting menus at 580 and 620 baht.

Pongyang Garden Resort, KM 14 Maerimdaily. No credit cards. About 200 baht per

This is the last of a series.



The skyline of Bangkok, where the traditional and the modern still mix.

Sand and Sea in Exotic Oman

A Long Isolated Land Opens Its Doors to Visitors

By Judith Miller

USCAT, Oman — Think of the Gulf and what do you see? Gulf War soldiers, burning oil, bearded fanatics, polluted seas and flar, hleak desert. What does not come to mind is vacation.

Think of Oman, and even the most seasoned

traveler might bave difficulty conjuring up any image at all. Bot the strategically placed Sultanate of Oman is not only one of the most beautiful countries in all the Middle East, it is also a glorious place to vacation, well worth the eight-hour flight from Londoo or what would be a 14-hour trip from New York, were there a nonstop flight from the United States to Muscat, the capital, which there is oot - at least oot yet.

At the entrance to the Gulf, Oman also looks out on the Arabian Sea. With more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of pristine coastline, Oman offers visitors wide-ranging terrain and experiences - from striking desertscapes where carnels and jeeps race along silky sand dunes, to propical seaside resorts with palm trees and world-class fishing

There are country markets where farmers, silversmiths and craftsmen haggle over varieties of incense and intricately worked silver daggers and jewelry, yet in Muscat visitors can attend theater or

concerts of the Omani Philharmonic.

Just inland lies Oman's backbone, the great Jabal
Akhdar, the Green Mountains, whose sharp peaks
of green-tinted rock soar to 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) and offer climbing, hiking, and camping alongside that rarest of sights in this part of the world, freshwater streams and dramatic water-

MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUM

Oman has always been different from other countries in the Arabian peninsula and most of the Middle East. Long isolated by choice from the rest of the region - indeed, from most of the world -Oman has only recently opened up to tourists, and giveo the relatively high prices of its hotels, the Omanis seem intent oo developing tourism that caters mainly to wealthier visitors.

If Oman could be described as "unknowo" as late as 1966 by Wendell Phillips, the American archaeologist and oil consultant, the fault is largely its own. For many years, Oman oeither sought nor welcomed strangers.

Most of the foreigners who came intermitteotly brought little hut conquest, occupation and despair to Omanis, starting with the Persians, whose King Cyrus the Great conquered Oman in 536 B.C.

Subsequent invaders came from what is oow Iraq. Then came the Mongols, and then the Persians again. In the early 16th century the Portuguese invaded, bombarding and destroying Omani cities, as did the Turks a geoeration later. But around 1650 independent rule was re-established and has been more or less maintained since then. As a result,

elers, maders and empire huilders, ruling large parts education, has at its center a huge stack of books, of East Africa and even Zanzibar, their culture was soon marked by cultural and culinary influences unknown in most parts of Arabia. While Oman may be linked by land to the Arabian peninsula, it looks out to the east. So bappily for Omani food and art, the influence of India and even China remains

TRADING SOCIETY And because it was always a trading society, Oman bas almost always been rich, long before oil, which Oman began producing in 1967, late by Gulf standards, and which oow provides the country with half its income. Four thousand years ago, its wealth was based on dates, copper and frankincense, the fragrant gift of kings that is still burned in homes and offices and exported at exorbitant prices. Later Oman prospered

because of its trade in slaves, gold and spices.

For almost 30 years, Oman's oil has enabled its ruler, Soltan Qahus bin Said, 55, to develop and educate the country and provide its people with an average per capita income of around \$9,000 a year. (The population of around 2.5 million includes about 750,000 exparriate workers.) But unlike some other oil-rich countries, Oman has enjoyed orderly development. As a result, its culture and identity are largely intact. Compromise between modernization and tradition is the rule, so there is a

McDonald's, but oo golden arches.

Men still wear a light-colored dishdasha, a flowing, ankle-length robe, and the distinctive ammana, a brightly colored cashmere turban, or an embroidered skull cap called a kumma. Official occasions in Muscat require men to wear the Omani equivalent of black tie — an exquisitely crafted ceremonial dagger, the khanjar. (In the countryside, daggers are routine and not ceremonial.) Rural womeo in markets still cover their bodies in black silk robes and their faces with dyed, eagle-like masks. Bot younger women in the capital opt for simpler silk headscarves. Omani women of all classes and regions still paint their hands for weddings and other celebrations in fanciful filigrees made with benna, a natural dye.

WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES Unlike Sandi Arabia, where women cannot work with men or drive and there are oo elections. Oman now has several women in the partially elected Consultative Council, and Sultan Qabus is committed to implementing by the year 2000 the Basic Law he announced in November 1996. What is in effect an Islam-based constitutioo contains a bill of rights guaranteeing a measure of press freedom as well as tolerance and equality of both sexes under law. There is no religious police. Alcohol is oot hanned.

What cannol be legislated, but what the visitor instantly feels, is the warmth of Omanis. On entering Nizwa, a former capital two hours inland from Muscat, one passes not a grandiose statue of the leader, but a roundabout decorated with a giant Oman is available at travel state gov/oman.html.

Oman can claim to be among the oldest independent sovereign Arab states in existence today.

Since the Omanis themselves were great traverage of the Omanis themselves were great traverage.

Arabic coffee um, surrounded by silver-lined cups, a symbol of Oman's legendary hospitality. Another traffic circle, a reflection of the Sultan's British homage to the country's emphasis on learning. Oman was discreetly opened to tourism only

three years ago. The "oon-objection certificates" once sparingly approved by contract British of-ficers who held senior posts in Oman's military and civil service as late as 1990 are oo longer required. Omani and foreign travel agencies and even hotels can help arrange tourist visas. The best time to visit Oman is November through

March, when the average daytime high temperature is in the 70s to mid-80s Fahrenheit. But tourists from the Gulf go through the summer. The country is particularly lush in October, after the monsoon in

Hall . A.

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THEORY SEVENOS

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Marke At The World Street

The state of the s

While Oman had almost no tourists only a few cars ago, about 50,000 foreigners visited in 1995. Bot Oman is oot cheap, and a visitor should expect to spend at least \$100 per person a night.

Two of the largest agencies are Bahwan Travel Agencies, (968) 797-405 or 704-455, fax (968) 799-825, and Zubair Travel and Service Bureau, (968) 708-071, fax (968) 782-236. We were delighted with our tour, arranged by Said Al-Harthy, of Desert Discoverer, (968) 597-914, fax (968) 590-144. Veteran visitors have praised tours organized by Ryadh Mohammed, of Debeek Tours, (968) 698-555, fax (968) 698-263; Sabrah Al-Riyami, a freelance guide who sometimes works through Darran Tours, (968) 607-311, fax (968) 607-552; and Mohammed Al-Riyami, of Arabian Sea Safaris, (968) 597-575, fax (968) 782-113.

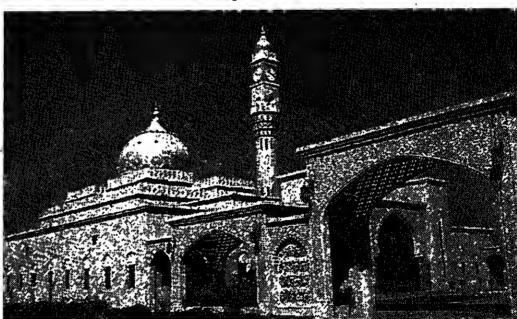
AHWAN offers a daylong guided sight-seeing trip in Muscat that includes a visit to the souk for \$58 for a vehicle with driver for four passengers. A day trip from Muscat to Nizwa, an oasis city in the interior with a splendid souk, and Fort Jabrin costs about \$178 (also for a vehicle of four), including lunch. A daylong four-wheel-drive excursion to the Wahiba Sands is \$300 per vehicle, including lunch.

A permit is required to watch the turtles laying eggs at Ras al-Hadd; tour companies can make the

English is widely spoken. Women have oo trouble traveling around the country, but off the beach. modest dress for men and women (arms and legs covered) is recommended. Alcohol is sold in hotels and restaurants, and visitors can bring one bottle into the country, but no books or magazines that a conservative country might consider pornographic. Drug possession is a serious crime and severely punished. Cars can be rented with a driver's license. and most major credit cards are accepted throughout the country. But plan to use rials in the

For information oo the Internet: The Oman Visitor by Rashid Abdullah al-Yahyai at www.geocities.com/RainForest/8883/omanvis.html. The State Department's consular information sheet on





Omanis in traditional dress: Muscat, the capital of Oman, which until recently had seldom been seen by tourists.

Innsbruck: Skiing and Much More

By Eric Weinberger

NNSBRUCK, Austria - Few cities are also winter sports destinations, but Innsbruck qualifies. It is home to a university and 130,000 people, and capital of the Austrian province of Tirol. It was host to two Olympic Winter Games (1964 and 1976), and offers skating Samerng Road, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Tel: and ski jumping within the city limits, and cross-(66-53) 879-151 Fax: (66-53) 879-153. Open country and alpine skiing and luge and bohsled tracks within five miles or so.

Innshruck occupies a narrow site on a valley floor, hemmed in by mountains that seem to rise directly above it to the north and south, while the Inn River (the city takes its name from a bridge that spans it) flows west to east.

Its contemporary link with winter sports ob-scures Innsbruck's history and its association with the Habsburgs, particularly the Emperor Maximilian. Innsbruck was his favorite city and the Golden Roof, the landmark gilded loggia in the Old Town, or Altstadt, not far from the Inn River, is his creation, while the Hofburg, or imperial palace, is the work of Empress Maria Theresa.

Just south of the Alstadt, on the Maria-Theresien

Strasse, the Triumphal Arch depicts the marriage of the Archduke Leopold to the Spanish infanta in 1765 on one side, and on the other, the death of the Emperor Francis I, Maria Theresa's busband, which happened at the same time.

CULTURAL VARIETY

This indeed seems like ancient history in a modern city dedicated to learning and pleasure. Innsbruck has a lively cultural life, and numerous bars, restaurants, cafés and pastry shops. Concerts and other performances are staged year-round - and in winter, the ball season is nearly as exhaustive as Vienna's. In the mountains and outlying areas, there are scenic walking paths, and driving routes with various historical and artistic themes, including landmarks of Maximilian's life and of Austrian Gothic,

Baroque and Rococo architecture. And then there is the skiing. Innsbruck's mountains, while oot very high (up to 7,687 feet, or 2,340 15 Wilhelm-Greil-Strasse, contains ournerous old meters), generally guarantee good snow from early December through mid-April.

The Congress Innsbruck, a concert ball and conference ceoter near the Old Town, has an active coocert calendar of chamber and other classical music. The Tirolean Symphony Orcbestra will perform on March 5 and 6, and there is a schedule of visiting artists; for example, on March 30 the Camerata Academica Salzburg will perform under the direction of Alexander Janiczek. Prices range from \$14 to \$62.50 (at 12 Austrian schillings to the dollar). Contact the Stadtisches Konzertburo, 16 Stiftgasse; (43-512) 580-023.

Most nights, there is a varied program of alternative theater, cabaret, jazz and World Music in the Treibhaus, a 300-seat theater on three levels resembling a concrete globe. The Sunday jazz brunch is popular. The downstairs café is open from 9 A.M. to 1 A.M. (from 10 A.M. on weekends), and it contains an indoor playground for children. Tickets to events range from \$8.30 to \$20.80. The theater is at 8 Angerzellgasse; (43-512) 586-874.

The winter program of the Tiroler Landestheater, a regional repenory theater at 2 Rennweg, includes performances of "Tosca," "The Threepenny Opera," "The Barber of Seville," "La Cage aux Folles" (opening Feb. 28) and "Tales From the Vienna Woods," by Odon von Horvath, which opens March 21. Prices range from \$6 to \$32 for plays, and \$7 to \$38 for musicals and opera; (43-512) 520-744, fax (43-512) 520-74333.

The Easter Religious Music Festival, with events in Innsbruck and the nearby town of Hall from March 29 to April 12, is notable this year for its celebration of African religions and their influence on Western culture. Events include a performance of Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion" at 7 P.M. on April 6 in the Congress Innsbruck and two high Masses on Easter at the Jesuitenkirche, a traditional one at 11 A.M., and an African celebration with dance and masks at 6 P.M. The Innsbruck tourist office, 3 Burggraben, can provide details; (43-512) 5356, fax (43-512) 535-614.

pictures, maps and prints revealing changing methods of mountaineering. Also on display are scale models of mountain ranges, old skis, snowshoes and climbing gear. Admission is \$2.50; (43-512) 595-

The Tirolean Folk Art Museum, 2 Universitatsstrasse, displays artistic and domestic items from all parts of the Tirol, spanning several centuries. There are decorative wooden chests, cupboards, clothes. farming and cooking utensils, and a number of cru-cifixes and votive offerings testifying to a culture with a deep religious faith. The museum is notable for its many Stuben, or old wooden parlors, rebuilt in their entirety, and a gallery devoted to Nativity scenes. Admission is \$3.30; (43-512) 584-302.

The master bell makers of the Grassmayr foundry. 53 Leopoldstrasse, have been casting bells since 1599. and they will let you see them at work — and let you ring the bells. Admission is \$3.30; (43-512) 59416.

GLS, just south of Innsbruck, is an independent resort on a shelf above the city; its mountain, the Patscherkofel, was the site of the great victory by the Austrian downhiller Franz Klamme in the 1976 Winter Olympics. Its skiing is limited — basically the downhill route itself with a couple of variants through the trees — and a half-day lift pass beginning at noon costs \$18.30. Information: (43-512) 377-101.

The Olympic luge and bobsled run is also in Igls. and rides on a four-man bobsled are available this month at 10 A.M. Tuesday and 7 P.M. Thursday for \$30 a person; (43-512) 377-525.

The greatest variety of skiing in the immediate vicinity is at Axamer Lizum, southwest of Inns bruck, where the other Olympic ski races were held. There are 10 lifts and 18 miles of trails, all suitable for intermediate skiers. A free bus departs from five places in central Innsbruck twice each morning returning at 1 P.M. and again at 4:30 P.M. A day pass for Innsbruck hotel guests costs \$27 till March 1, then \$24; (43-5234) 68240.

On the third floor of the headquarters of the Eric Weinberger, who writes frequently about ski Austrian Alpine Association, the Alpine Museum, ing and the Alps, wrote this for The New York Times. PAGE 12

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Market Mrs. Sarrounded ov Silver-Interde And Oman's legendary hospitality and the Sultan like socie, a refrection of the Sultan the the state of the center a frage stack of the the the country's emphasis on learning s was discreen opened to tolking a series ago. The mon-consection continue parally approved by contact Burge to held senior posts in Oman's military Feice as late as 1990 are no longer long med foreign mans; agancies and confe

thest time to visit Oman is November to the average day time high temper 6 70s to mid-50's Fahrennen. But an Coll to through the summer the ast charly lush in October, after the monage

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Para North 1976 Water With Land THE FREQUENT TRAVELER

The Growing No-Frills Network

By Roger Collis International Herald Tribune

unable to use an excursion fare with the could fly London-Dusseldorf 1£69 offered on the Internet. Tables show how you could fly London-Dusseldorf 1£69 Saturday-night nonsense. The best that one-way. Dusseldorf-Munich (149 many miles you need to claim flight one-way. British Airways and British Midland can Deutsche marks, or about \$268 onc- awards (and upgrades) by airline, route via London for 6,840 francs (\$940) and and Rome-London (255,000 lire, or managing your programs — checking 6,211 francs, respectively. Air France about \$144, one-way). quotes 5,646 francs for a full-fare economy ticket via Paris; Sabena/Aer Lingus via Brussels is about the same price.

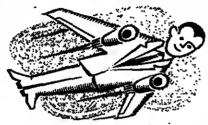
I call the no-frills options. EasyJet from Nice to London Luton and Ryanair from Luton to Dublin enables me to make the round-trip for 1,600 francs, in as much comfort and with as much flexibility as I need. O. K., the no-frills price I've given you includes a restricted £59 (\$97) roundtrip fare with Ryanair between Luton and Dublin -- compared with £179 for a fullyflexible ocket (which still gives a Nice-Dublin round-trip fare of less than 3,000 francs) - which means that I can't switch to another flight. But all I'd need to do is buy another ocket and still save money. What's more, I could add Brussels to my itinerary on the way back from Dublin by buying a one-wey Eurostar ticket from London to Brussels for £89.50 (or a roundtrip excursion for £65 and throwing away the return half) and Virgin Express from Brussels back to Nice for 2,900 Belgian francs (\$78) — which would bring the cost of traveling Nice - London - Dublin - London - Brussels - Nice to around £253 (about 2,500 French francs.)

75 PERCENT SAVINGS This is an example of how husiness travelers can save up to 75 percent of the cost of full-fare tickets by taking advantage of the growing network of no-frills carriers that offer cheave one-way fares between 28 informacion on more than 100 airline. up to 75 percent of the cost of full-fare destinations in Britain, Ireland, France, car rental, charge-card and phone com-Spain, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, pany programs, which have grown so Norway, Swedeo and Germany, Easylet complex that few travelers understand now serves Amsterdam, Barcelona, the myriad options, elite levels, special Nice, Palma, Geneva, Edinburgh, Aberdeen. Inverness and Glasgow from its veloped over the years. hnh et London Luton: Debonair offers flights from Luton to Copenhagen, Dus- checklist to help you determine which numbers, louoge locations, concecting seldorf, Madrid, Barcelooa, Milan, programs are best for your type of travel times and local transportation. There is a Rome, Nice and Munich, plus connectinched in the class you usually fly or mine of information on airline fleets and tions from Mnnich to Rome, Barcelona aspire to - such as free flights to the services - seating, food, entertainment, and Madrid; Ryanair, which serves 13 routes between Dublin and Britain (including Stansted, Luton and Gatwick) and mainland Europe, plus routes from Stansted to Oslo and Stockholm; and Virgin Express based in Brussels which serves Londoo (Heathrow and Gatwick), Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Rome, Milan. Nice, Barcelona and Madrid

Starting in Loodon, for example, you could fly Easylet to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness or Glasgow (£29 one-than 30 percent of all FFP miles are lished twice a year. You can see moothly updates at www.pyramid.cb.

way); Ryanair from Glasgow to Dublin earned through airline program partners, such as affinity credit cards, hotels, and sels-Rome (2,800 Belgian francs one-car rental. Section three looks at

Go is likely to operate its fleet of eight Boeing 737-300s on routes to Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and France. Seas will be sold by phone and no food and drinks will be sold on the 148-seat eircraft. You will be able to buy one-way tickets.



Barbara Cassani, chief executive of Go, says: "We selected Go because it's dynamic, modern and simple. There's a tials at an outstanding price."

the myriad options, elite levels, special offers and partnerships that have de-

places you want to go on business or duty-free shopping and frequeot-flier vacation, the ability to redeem miles for npgrades, companion ockets, threshold bonuses or ongoing promotions through-business or economy - even which seat out the year. Charis belp you compare how quickly you can achieve elite-level status in the hierarchy of very frequent or a CD-ROM (\$59.95) from Pyramid travelers who enjoy access to lounges Media Group, 1215 Geneva Airport, and free upgrades. The second section Switzerland, Tel: (41-22) 788-9080; fax: and free upgrades. The second section focuses on the fastest ways to earn miles

NEED to travel from Nice to Dub-lin to creek at a conference to Dub-way) and Rome-Madrid (2,800 Belgian strategies for redeeming miles and points Trancs one-way) and Debonair from Madrid to London (17,500 pesetas, or ation dates and capacity controls and checking out last-minute award sales to use an excursion form about \$115, one-way). With Debonair. mileage statements, extending expiration British Airways' new no-frills airline deadlines by up to two years, and keeping will be called Go and will fly from Lon-track of partnerships and bonuses doo Stansted starting this spring. Routes through other publications and Web and fares have yet to be announced, but sites. The remaining sections explain individual airline, hotel, car rental and card programs. The Official Frequent Flyer Guidebook, Fifth Edition, \$19.95 from Frequent Flyer Services, 4715-C Town Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 90916-4709. Tel: (1-719) 597-8843; fax: (1-719) 597-6855.

> MaxMiles is easy-to-use software that allows you to manage all your frequentflier programs by automatic tracking of miles for major airlines and parmers. It monitors expiratioo dates, reconciles statements, allows you to update program changes, such as minimum mileage or award levels and shows the oumber of miles or points you need for specific awards. You can see from a pie chart where your miles come from (flights, hotels, car rentals or credit cards) dynamic, modern and simple. There's a which might suggest how you should new kind of traveler out there who wants change your travel or buying habits to a straightforward service — the essen- earn more miles. MaxMiles comes on two 3.5-incb disks and a 44-page user manual. It costs \$39.95 and can be ordered over the Internet at www.maxmiles.com or hy calling toll-free in the United States 1-888-MAXMILES.

AIRguide is a new one-stop source for travelers seeking basic facts and phone numbers on more than 100 of the world's major destinations, airports and airlines, you'll find lists of major hotels (with published rates), airport services and fa-The first section takes you through a cilioes, along with airline reservation programs. You can check bow much legroom you can expect in first class. (41-22) 788-9084. AIRguide is pub-

GOOD TRAVEL

BRITISH AIRWAYS	Britain	Seven-night package to Panang for £385 (\$635) per person (twin-share)
Malaysian Airlines	to Malaysia	includes round-trip with British Airways from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, connection to Penang with Malaysian Airlines and hotel accommodation. Bookings must be made by Feb. 28 for departures until Merch 31. Trailfinders (44-171) 938-3939.
DRAGONAIR	Hong Kong Io China	Packages to Kunming, Xian and Guilin from 3,500 Hong Kong dollars (\$450), 3,970 and 2,570, respectively (twin-share), include round-trip air fare, three nights' accommodation (axcept Guilin with two nights), breakfast airport transfars, sightseeing tour and travel insurance. Until March 31.
DRAGONAIR	Hong Kong to China	Three-night weekend packages to Beijing for 4,660 Hong Kong dollars (\$600) and Io Qingdao Ior 4,230 Hong Kong dollars include round-trip all fare, three nights at China World Hotel, Baijing, or Shangn-La, Qingdao, with breakfast, Iransfers, a city tour and Iravel insurance. Until March 31.
Japan Airlines	Worldwide	New Mileage Bank members earn a bonus of 3,000 miles if they make their first flight in first or business class before March 31. All Mileage Bank members aam 50 percent more miles on JAL flights between Europe and Japan and vice versa until March 15.
SINGAPORE AIRLINES	London to Singapore	Three-night package for £425 (\$700) per person includes nonstop round- trip flights, airport transfers, a city tour and accommodation at the Concorde Hotel, Until April 30.
SINGAPORE AIRLINES	Britain to Australia	Round-trip from London Heathrow to Melbourne (with optional stopovers in Singapore) for £499 (\$823). Minimum stay of seven days and maximum stay of three months. For departures from March 29 to June 30. Trailfinders, (44-171) 938-3939.
	W	HENESTO STATE AND A CONTRACTOR
HILTON HOTELS	Worldwide	HHonors members eam double points at more than 400 Hilton, Flamingo, Bally's, Conrad International and Vista holels worldwide. New members living outside the United States receive an automatic enrollment bonus of 1,000 HHonors points. Until March 31.
HOTEL NEGARA	Singapore	"Anniversary Promotion" offers 50 percent off normal room rates. Until March 31.
KOWLOON HOTEL	Hong Kong	Rooms for 1,050 Hong Kong dollars (\$135) single/double occupancy. Until March 31.
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTELS	Asia	"Interludes Package" offers special rates for single/double occupancy with American breakfast, use of haalth club and late checkout. Example: Hotel Majapahit, Surabaja, \$120. Until March 31.
SHANGRI-LA	China	Up to 50 percent off normal rates at 11 Shangri-La and Traders hotels, plus double miles for members of Passages, Mileage Plus, WorldPerks, Qantas Frequant Flyer or Royal Orchid Plus. Until Feb. 28.
WESTIN OSAKA	Japan	"Guest Office" rooms discounted by 50 percent. Rate of 26,500 yen (\$213) includes Iree local calls, breakfast, late checkout, Until March 31.

RECORDINGS



Callier, a "major rediscovery."

. TERRY CALLIER "Time Peace" (Verve): In 1964, Callier's producer Shoes" and "Bernie's Tune," you'll went off to Mexico with the tapes of his love Nick Brignola, Ronnie Cuber and newly recorded first album. By the time the producer brought them back two of the master on the hig horn with the years later, Callier's style was said to be curl in the neck. passé." That sort of thing seemed to Romanesque prophet and soul legend. discovery," he is currently billed, "re- no matter what the style, there is no such turns with new music for new times." . THREE BARITONE SAXOPHONE

BAND PLAYS MULLIGAN (Dreyfus): If

• FRED HERSCH "Thelonious: Fred happen to Callier, Never mind, De- Hersch Plays Monk" (Nonesuch); scribed by various permutations of the Herseb becomes one more in the growing terms bluesy, folk, jazz, cosmic crooner, succession of elegant pianists keeping the spirit of Monk alive. It has become clear Callier is a singer/songwriter in a eat- that a pianist no looger has to play in the egory yet to be defined. "A major re- style of Monk to play stylish Monk. And

thing as too much Monk.

you liked "Line for Lyons," "Walkin"

Gary Smulyan keeping alive the sound

Mike Zwerin/IHT

MOVIE GUIDE

GOOD WILL HUNTING Directed by Gus Van Sant. U.S.

When people tumble into love - in Hollywood movies, that is - intelligence is rarely the motivating force that brings them together. Being adorable or eccentric, or having an amazing head of hair - these are the usual qualities that make one flavor of the month bot for another. But in the wonderfully original "Good Will Hunting," Matt Damon's appeal doeso't spring from good looks. sculpted locks or cover-boy uniquitousoess - although certainly those qualities should haul in the crowds. What counts is his brain. When Will Hunting (Damon) meets Skylar (Minnie Driver), a highly intelligent Harvard student, they waltz on a high mental plateau. Will and Skylar's newfound relationship is part of Will's painful odyssey to get in tonch with himself. An autodidact, he bas an

Bostoo, he's an orphaned delinqueot who has bounced between foster homes, and who has been arrested for assault and hattery and grand theft auto. When Will effortlessly solves a complicated equation on a blackboard at MIT - where be works part time as e janitor - he attracts the attendon of Professor Lambeau (Stellan Skarsgard). Lambeau approaches Will, but the working-class youth, who's contemptuous of professors and all convectional forms of intellectualism, refuses to speak with him. He'd rather hang with his best friends (including Beo Affleck), get into fights and head nowbere fast. Fate steps in, however. Will is arrested for assault, again. At the resourceful Lambeau's suggestion, the judge offers Will his freedom if he promises to work with the professor and part of will s painful odyssey to get in tonch with himself. An autodidact, he has an astounding ability to read books and absorb them, no matter what the subject. But he's an an Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck, asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affleck asks us to nod our heads in mon and Affl

emotional mess. A product of scrappy South

reverence at the mysteries of higher intel- counter deceit and discrimination. This is all ligence. But there's more to "Good Will the more surprising because many Spaniards Hunting" than "a movie with heart." It's insist that they still have a special regard for also about a world in which official intelligence has been appropriated by an academic back with a blend of ingenuity and wit. The and professional elite that's too dumb, or arrogant, to handle the joh. Director Van Sant, who made the lyrical "Mala Noche," 'Drugstore Cowboy' and "My Own Private Idaho," returns to his favorite hunting ground - the subworlds of grimy, poetic lost boys and pulls us right in. (Desson Howe, WP)

COSAS QUE DEJE EN LA HABANA Directed by Monuel Gunerre: Aragon, Spain. Various Spanish films in recent years have poverished African immigrants seek a better life in Spain. But "Things That I Left in Havana" takes an intriguing look at immi-

the former colony of Cuba. The Cubans fight eogaging film has a roster of good performers, starting with Violeta Rodriguez, the real-life daughter of the Cuban singer Silvio Rodriguez, who plays one of three young Cuban sisters who come to visit their unscrupulous aunt in Madrid. She ends up falling in love with a Cuban rogue, portrayed by Jorge Perugorria. Their match is oot an easy one, because Spaniards keep coming between them, sometimes hilariously, and at other moments, with a menacing edge. The veteran dramaozed the clash of cultures wheo im- director, Gutierrez Aragon, maintains a sharp, intelligent rhythm to the film, drawing the viewer deeply beneath the veneer of

(1) 5525-24403, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To April 14: "Bruegel: Tradition und Forschritt." Works by Pieter Brueghel the Eldar, and his two sons, Jan the Elder and Prefer the Younger.

AUSTRIA

BILGIUM

Royal Museum for Central Africa, tel: (2) 769-5211, closed Mondays. Continuing/To April 30: "Legacies of Stone: Zimbabwe, Page 2 Stone: Zimbabwe, Past & Present." Documents the African country's cultural richness

BRITAIN

layward Gallery, tel: (171) 928-3144, open daily. To April 5: "Francis Bacon: The Human Body." Brings together paintings from 1945 to the mid-1980s that focus on the human figure, Bacon's central subject. The paintings, both single canvases and triptychs, range from recognizable portraits to bodies wracked by violent distortion or the smearing of paint. National Portrait Gallery, tel: (171) 306-0055, open daily. To June 14: "Bleck Power: Photo-Graphs by Donald A. MacLellan." A senes of 24 portraits of black achievers in British society. Avoiding the well-documented areas of sport and popular music, the artist has photographed subjects from different walks of lifa, such as politics, media, law and the Church.

Tate Gallery, tel: (171) 887-8000,
Open daily. To May 17: "Bonnard."

Motion will travel to New York. DENMARK

REBASK

trly 100 paintings by the French

res, and self-portraits. The ex-

painter (1867-1947). His work in-cludes landscapes, still lifes, in-teriors, the celebrated bethroom

Art, tel: 49-19-07-1a, open daily. Continuing/ To April 26: "Francis Bacon." Works dating back to the 1950s by the British artist (1909-

FRANCE

Louvre, tel: 01-40-20-51-51, closed Tuesdays. To May 11: "La Col-lection Lemme: Tableaux Romains des XVIIe et XVIIIa Siecles." More than 100 paintings created in Rome between the and of the 17th and the end of the 18th century. They are mainly small religious paintings, portraits and mytholocical representations by Backccia. Maratia, Cavalluci and Mengs, among others. Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville

de Paris, tel: 01-53-67-40-00, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Mey 17: "Lumlers du Monde, Lu-miere du Ciel." A survey of 20thcentury art in Scandinavia. Musee d'Orsay, tef: 01-40-49-48-14, closed Mondays. To May 17: Manet, Monet: La Gare Saint-Lazare." Focusing around Menet's 1872 "Chemin de Fer," the exhibition documents the theme of the Parle etation in the works of Monet. Catilebotte, Morisot and other

GIRMANY

Haus der Kunst, tel: (89) 211-270, open daily. To May 3: "Arnold Bocklin, Giorgio de Chinco, Max Ernst: Eine Reise ins Ungewisse." With more than 200 works in the exhibition, the three artists cover 120 years of painting and form a link from Romanticism and Sympolism to Surrealism.

Steatsgalerie, tel: (711) 212-4050, closed Mondays. To June 1: "Paul Gauguin: Tahiti." Gauguin spent the last 10 years of his life on Tahiti where ha discovered how the strange and exotic clashed with the reality of colonialism. His bright, colorful paintings symbolize this



ARTS GUIDE

A Francis Bacon at London's Hayward Gallery.

HONGKONG

Hong Kong Museum, tel: 2734-2167, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 1: "National Treasures: Gems of China's Cultural Ralics." Bronze, jade, ivory. silver and gold objects, as well as lacquerware and stone carving deting back to the Neolithic ara.

IRELAND Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of

closed Mondeys. To April 5: "Rita Duffy: Banquet." Paintings, large charcoal drawings and installations. Threaded through much of the work of the Belfast-born artist is her criticism of the church and its control over family life.

ITALY

Fondazione Memmo, tel: [6] 418. To Feb. 28: "Fayum Portraits." Funeral portraits on wooden panels dating back to the first centuries of Modern Art, lat: |1) 874-1903. Roman rule in Egypt.

JAPAN

Osaka Municipal Museum of Art, el: (6) 771-4874. Continuing/ To March 22: "Angkor Wat and 10 Centuries of Khimer Art." Beginning in the 6th century and continuing lo more than 1.000 years, Cambod ian artists created monumental gods, quardians, female dancers and legendary creatures in sand-stone. The works embrace both Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, lal: (5) 203-5947, closed Mondays. To May 24: "Joan Miro." On loan from the Centre Georges Pompidou In Parls, which is un-dergoing renovation, 20 paintings, 5 sculptures and 70 graphic works by the Spanish painter (1893-1983).

SWITZERLAND

Kunsthaus Zurich, tel: (1) 251-8755, closed Mondays. To Mey 10: Von Ankarbis Zund: The Art of the Young Confederation, 1848-1900." Soon after 1848, a new generation of Swiss artists dereloped, away from the romanticized depictions of the Alps Bocion, Bocklin, Keller, Hoder and Zund, among others,

UNITEDSTATES

HOUSTON Three Houston museums collaborate to present a retrospective of 400 paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs spanning the 50-year career of Texas artist. Rauschenberg (born

1925). To May 17: The Contemporary Arts Mu-seum, tel: (713) 284-8250, closed Mondays: Examples of the technology series and performances. The Menil Collection, tel: 1713) 525-9400, closed Mondays and Tuesdays: Works from the late 1940s through the mid-1980s.

Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7300, closed Mondays: Works from the 1980s to the

NEW YORK

Solomon R. Guggenheim Mu-seum, tel: (212) 423-3840, closed Thursdays. Continuing/ To June 3: "China: 5,000 Years." Art works including recently unearthed ar-chaeological discoveries, Neolithic iades, ancient bronzes, early por paintings and calligraphy. The modern section of the axhibition continues to May 25 et the Gug-genheim Museum Soho, closed Mondays and Tuesdays). It explores the past 150 years, and docments the evolution of painting. from the traditional scrolls to the Socialist Realist painting that emerged after 1949 to contempor ary variations.

737-4215, open daily. Continu-ing/ To March 1: "Lorenzo Lotto." A retrospective of the works of the Venetian Renaissance master (c. CLOSING SOON

Netional Gallery of Art, 1el: (202)

Feb. 15: "Turner on the Loire. Tate Gallery, London. Feb. 15: "Hyenas in Petticoats: Mary Wollstonecraft & Mary Shelley" and "Bruce Weber: Photoraphs National Portrait Gallery, London. Feb. 15: "Discovering the Italian

Baroque: The Denis Mahon Col-lection." National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh. Feb. 15: "Marienna et Garmenia, 1789-1889: Un Siecle de Passions Franco-Allemandes" Petit Palaie, Paris. Feb. 15: "Calder," Fundacio Joan

Miro, Barcelona. Feb. 15: "Picasso: Masterworks from the Museum of Modem Art." High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Feb. 15: "Femsicht, Walter Bosshard: A Picneer of Modern Kunsthaus.

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Continued on Page 18

Asian Crisis And Cheap Oil Drain **Shell Profit**

LONDON — The Royal Dutch/Shell Group jarred markets Thursday with fourth-quarter and full-year results that were below expectations and with a statement laced with gloom about the Asian economic crisis and the weak

price of oil:

The British-Dutch oil giant, 60 percent owned by Royal Dutch Petroleum and 40 percent by Shell Transport & Trading Co., said the low oil price and strong pound and dollar had cut into profits, while economic turmoil in Asia had lowered marketing income in the fourth quarter and could brake refining markin growth this year.

margin growth this year.
Shell said net income before excepshell said net income before exceptional items dropped 23 percent in the fourth quarter to £1.05 billion (\$1.7 billion). For the full year, income dropped 6 percent to £4.90 billion.

Investors, who had driven Shell's stock up by more than 2 percent to 431.5

pence in early dealings in London, quickly sold the stock, and the price slid to 408 pence from 4.19. In Amsterdam, Royal Dutch Petroleum closed down 2.70 guilders at 105,40.

"These are not particularly good fig-ures and across every sector," said Tooy Alves, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite in London. "When you throw in a few nasties like £70 million of currency losses in the fourth quarter it doesn't look terribly pretty.

Shell bemoaned the impact of the strong pound and dollar, ooting that currency losses totaled £253 million pounds last year, an almost fivefold rise over 1996.

Shell said crude oil productioo rose 1 percent last year to 2.3 million barrels a day and predicted output would rise to 2.6 million barrels this year.

France Warns U.S. on Total

France warned the United States on Thursday against punishing Total SA, a French oil company, for investing in Iran, and threatened to withhold French approval of an international investment accord over the matter, Reuters reported from Paris.



A Buddhist monk checking out used Mercedes cars at the Market of the Formerly Rich in central Bangkok.

Southeast Asia's Mercedes Correction

By Thomas Fuller International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR - Proof of personal success in Southeast Asia has long been a road-hogging, shiny Mercedes-Benz, a four-wheeled tropby that says, "I've made it."

But the icon of the region's boom years is now just a dream for the formerly ricb.

In Thailand, where three years ago 14,082 new Mercedes cars hit the street, dealers this year expect to sell a quarter of that number; around 3,500. In Malaysia, analysts said Mercedes sales were likely to drop 60 percent this year after nearly a decade of record growth.

Those kinds of sharp declines are not unique to the German carmaker, Car purchases in the region have fallen across the board as currencies plummeted since the financial crisis began in July, making imports two and three times more expensive.

"Nothing's moving right now,"

Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. in ing you could find anywhere in the Bangkok. "Sales are very, very world. Bangkok, "Sales are very, very

In Thailand, the car capital of Southeast Asia, 175,000 new cars are expected to be sold this year, down from 590,000 in 1996, according to Mr. Dunne's car consulting firm.

All brands may be suffering these days, but the rise and fall of Mercedes in Sontheast Asia over the past decade tells a particular story. How was it possible, after all, for thousands of families to buy cars that typically cost \$85,000 in countries where average annual incomes were no more than

Part of the answer was easy

money.
"In 1990, there was on financing: Cash only and you waited three months for your car," Mr. Dunne said. "By the end of 1996 there was zero percent financing and very aggressive deals for people who had just put down some cash for a Mercedes. You swung from one end, conservatism, to ansaid Michael Dunne, presideot of other end, the most aggressive financ-

"Basically, everybody who wanted a Mercedes got one." The result: When the bubble nurst in

July, the repossessions started. Figures for Mercedes alone are not available, but a total of 70,000 repossessed cars are up for auction in Thailand. Elsewhere, used-car lots are

swelling.
"There's no financing available," said a researcher at a Kuala Lumpur securities house. "People aren't buy-

Ooe indication of the number of used Mercedes on the market is the

slump in price. "You're talking about a 50 perceot decline in second-hand value," the

researcher said. High-end used-car lots, in fact, bave

become tourist attractions. In Bangkok, the owner of Thailand's largest Mercedes dealership,

Benz Thonglor Co., converted a park-See MERCEDES, Page 19

Union Backs Down Over Strike in Korea

But Militants Vow to Fight Layoffs Legislation

SEOUL - A hard-line labor union backed down Thursday from its threat to hold a general strike Friday, saying it did not want to endanger South Korea's economic recovery.

We decided to withdraw the strike, given its impact on our economy," the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions said. "But this doesn't mean we have decided to accept the tentative agree-ment between the government, management and unions

"We are especially against the agreement," it said, "which makes layoffs possible in mergers and acquisitions and introduces temporary workers."

South Korean workers are upset with proposed legislation that would give employers the right to lay them off in "emergencies." They had threatened to stay off the job until government and business leaders renegotiated an agreement oo the hill before the National Assembly.

But the strike call had not generated much public support, and few of the confederatioo's 550,000 members had said they would heed it.

South Korean financial markets, which had rallied over the last month in the belief that the country was on its way to overcoming its economic crisis, fell Thursday over fears of labor strife. The benchmark stock index finished down 1.47 percent at 512.49 points.

The National Assembly is determined to press ahead with the legislation, which also calls for reforms in the country's giant conglomerates, or chaebol, and reducing the government work force.

Political analysts said that the public generally supported the reforms, which are being pushed by President-elect Kim Dae Jung.

"It's snicide for labor because not many people are going to follow the call for a general strike,' said Kim Byung Kook, a Korea University poliocal sci-

ence professor. But the confederation said the withdrawal of its strike threat meant only that it was "planning to hold a more intensified fight in cooperation with the

The confederation's affiliates threw out their president during a raucous allnight meeting for agreeing last week, in

talks with government and business representatives, on the layoffs legislation. Economists have said much slower economic growth, tighter liquidity con-

trols and another slew of bankruptcies are expected to result in more than 1 million Koreans losing their jobs this South Korean companies are suffering from reduced orders and a credit

crunch. The nation's foreign debt is estimated at nearly \$160 billion, while companies' domestic debt is believed to exceed \$220 billion.

Dow Corning Picks Malaysia

Dow Corning Corp. said Thursday that it planned to lease land for de-velopment of a chemical plant in Malay-sia, which beat out China and South Korea for investment that could exceed \$1 billion, Bloomberg News reported from Midland, Michigan.

Dow Corning expects to sign within days an agreement to lease a plot of land in a Malaysian state bordering Singa-pore, said T. Michael Jackson, director of corporate relations.

The head of Dow Corning's South Korean unit, Kim Soon Mo, said the company picked Malaysia because of changes in South Korean government policy in the past two years, according to the state-run Yonhap oews agency.
The chemicals maker has said it plans

to invest \$1 billion in a plant to produce silicone materials used to make adhesives, lubricants, coatings and synthetic

It will be the company's first silicone plant in Asia; which accounts for about 30 percent of Dow Corning's sales and is the company's fastest-growing mar-ket, Chairman Richard Hazleton said in

At the time he said the plant would employ about 500 people and be com-

pleted over 10 years.

Mr. Jackson said Thursday that Dow
Corning would decide how much it will
speed oo the plant and when to begin construction based on growth in global

demand for silicone products.

The initial plan was to huild a basic silicone manufacturing facility," he

That has not changed. But we will continue to evaluate that over the next five to eight years."

Mr. Fix-It Hammers IMF

Professor Cuts Into Its Control of Suharto

By Paul Blustein Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - For years, Steven Hanke was viewed as little more than a clever nuisance by the policymakers and bureaucrats who run global

economic policy.

Mr. Hanke, a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, drew mostly indulgent smiles at the International Monetary Fund for his assertions that he had devised the perfect remedy for the economic problems afflicting every emerg-

But suddenly, he is looming as a serious threat to the IMF's control over the Asian financial crisis -- specifically, its program for rescuing Indonesia, the region's most troubled econ-

Mr. Hanke, 55, has gone to Jakarta for the second time in two weeks because he seems to have persuaded President Suharto of Indonesia to adopt his idea of establishing a "currency board" — a fixed-exchange rate between the local

currency, the rupiah, and the dollar. In Jakarta on Wednesday, Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad confirmed that Indonesia was "preparing the sup-porting frameworks, including the regulations" for a currency board.

Mr. Hanke's apparent rapport with Mr. Suharto is causing hand-wringing at the IMF, the World Bank and the U.S.

Treasury Department, where officials fear that a desperate Mr. Suharto is embracing a quick fix that may end up making the crisis worse.

Mr. Hanke's emergence as Mr. Suharto's economic guru is all the more remarkable becanse he is chairman of a currency-trading firm that profited from speculative bets on the collapse of the rupiah and other Southeast Asian currencies in recent months.

"I discussed this with the president," Mr. Hanke said. He declined to comment on Mr. Suharto's reaction, except to say, "Let's put it this way. We hit it off very well."

the IMF fired by zealony.

Arguing that rigidly fixed exchange rates have cured a host of ills in counrries such as Argentina and Estonia, Mr. Hanke told a congressional hearing last month: "Currency boards are the only foolproof way to stop currency chaos, limit corruption and establish stabil-

ity."
The reason Southeast Asian countries are racked by crisis, according to Mr. Hanke, is that investors found reason to question the authorities' pledges to peg their currencies against the dollar. An emerging market needs a stable investment climate above all, he contends, so the monetary authorities need to go to extraordinary lengths by guaranteeing
— in the constitution, if necessary that they will exchange dollars for the



Mr. Hanke comes to this battle with Steven Hanke explaining his economic policies in his university office.

local currency at a fixed rate forever, such as the one-peso-for-each-\$1 rate maintained by Argentina.

That guarantee must be backed with a giant reserve of dollars. A government adopting such an ap-

proach essentially surrenders all control over interest rates and the money supply because to print new money it has to add dollars to its reserve.

But the advantage of restricting the printing of money is that byperinflation cannot erupt, "and you get a dramatic reduction in corruption, because powerful people can't go to the monetary authority and say, 'Hey, give my bank-ing group credit,'" Mr. Hanke said, referring to practices that have been widely blamed for undermining the integrity of Asian financial systems. But IMF, World Bank and Clinton administration officials, while agreeing that currency boards have worked well in some conntries, assert that the idea is

hardly a cure-all in every case Mr. Hanke, who first became enamored with currency boards when Hong Kong instituted one in 1983, re-torts that interest rates quickly came down and investor confidence was restored swiftly in crisis-ridden countries that adopted the idea on his advice -including Bulgaria and Lithuania in ad-

dition to Argentina and Estonia. By putting his theories into practice, he added, he has earned healthy profits at the investment firm that he helps run, the Friedberg Mercantile Group of Toronto.

Asia's Near-Term Outlook: A Lot More Pain Than Gain

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — The Year of the

Tiger may bave begun with a monster dead cat" bounce. Asian markets on Thursday lost some of their euphoria of the preceding 10 days. But many in the West still think

that the region has turned the corner. Until Thursday, stock and currency markets, and the spin doctors at the International Monetary Fund, were saying that Asia was out of danger and on

the mend. Meanwhile, the message still going around Europe and the United States was that Asia is now not much to worry

about; growth rates there are only expected to be shaved 0.2 percent or so.

Would they were right. Closer examination suggests that at best the Asian problem has entered a new phase. The optimisoc story is that while volatility will remain high, the big dra-

mas in the financial markets are mostly According to this relatively sunny thesis, 1998 will see rough times for the economies as weakening currencies and

high interest rates work their way through the system. But though some big corporate collapses will send oc-casional shudders through the markets, policy reforms and trade surpluses will lead to the return of stability and eventually of growth. The optimists could be right. Currencies that fell ton much may

continue a recovery to sustainable levels. Some stock markets could, after breather, do the same

But it is equally plausible to argue that Asia is now in the eye of a storm, and that Western complaisance in particular is in for a rude awakening.

The current belief in miracle cures is sbown by the hope that Indonesia will

ECONOMIC SCENE

stabilize its rupiah through a currency board system. How that could work in the Indonesian situation, however, requires imagination.

First, the country lacks the foreign exchange to back its monetary system. Even if it were able to borrow it, political uncertainties would likely make it untenable. The rush to dollars would so contract the rupiah money supply as to make the current liquidity crunch seem

Further deterioration of the Indonesian situation oow seems more probability than possibility. Indonesia presents a frightening spectacle of gradual political and economic disin-

Collapse would seriously undermine confidence and add to financial losses

elsewhere in the region.

Indonesian losses could — because of South Korean bank exposure there easily jeopardize Korea's stabilization,

See SCENE, Page 19

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

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Lembard rate

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Reuters Battles to Repair Its Image center, where bankers and

By Tom Buerkle International Herald Tribunc

LONDON — For Reuters Holdings PLC, the global news service company more used to reporting the oews than making it, these are difficult times.

The company has been rocked in the past two weeks by oews that a U.S. federal grand jury is investigating whether a Reuters subsidiary used a consultant to steal proprietary informacoo from its competitor. Bloomberg LP. The possibility that Reuters could face crimioal charges or civil penalties has hammered the company's share price, wiping nearly £1.90 hillion (\$3.10

nificant recovery. But perhaps more important in London's ficancial

billion) off its market value

before the shares staged a sig-

brokers live by the adage, "my word is my bood," the investigation threatens to lesve a lasting stain on the company's reputation.

to capitalize on the exploding

demand for financial oews in the 1970s and 1980s, and remains the leading provider to the financial-services industry today with 435,000 informatioo terminals installed in dealing rooms and offices around the globe. But many analysts say Bloomberg has established a clear lead in its coverage of bood markets and in the technological capability and ease of use of its terminals, and the investigation may only enhance that reputation. Both agencies provide information to the Intemational Herald Tribune.

The investigation "seems to indicate that Reuters is

desperate to catch up," said 1997 earnings on Triesday, Paul Richards, an analyst at the company painted an up-Panmure Gordon.

Reuters was the quickest

Reuters executives moved dispel that image. Despite reporting a 12 percent drop in

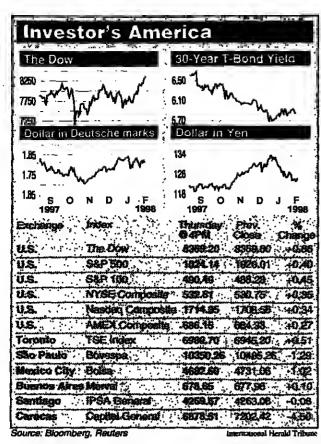
the company painted an upbeat picture and said the investigation would not slow quickly this week in a hid to the introduction of its newest

See REUTERS, Page 19

Rabobank

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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

 Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. will huy back up to \$3 hillion worth of its stock, or 8.2 percent of the outstanding shares. The repurchase comes as the firm reported that 1997 profit rose 35 perceot, to \$2.65 billion.

 May Department Stores Co. will buy hack as much as \$650 million worth of its stock, and it reported a 3 percent increase in fourth quarter profit, to \$445 million on strong cost cuts and a 5 perceot increase in revenue, to \$4.29 billion.

 Eastmao Kodak Co. agreed to buy 51 perceot of PictureVision Inc., the oatioo's leading provider of digital imaging services that allow photos to be stored and sent over the Internet, Terms were not disclosed.

 Coca-Cola Co. widened its domestic lead over PepsiCo Inc. in 1997, as sales of Sprite rose at a double-digit pace. The soft drink giant's share of the estimated \$53 billion market rose 0.8 percentage point, according to a survey by Beverage Digest and an analyst, while PepsiCo's share fell 0.1 point.

• U.S. office vacancies fell to 9.9 percent at the end of 1997, against 12.1 percent a year earlier, CB Commercial Real Estate Services Inc. reported. The strong economy has led companies to add workers at a record rate, it said, pulling the vacancy level below 10 percent for the first time since 1981.

· Commercial Federal Corp. agreed to buy AmerUs Bank, a unit of insurer Amer Us Group Co., for \$200.9 in stock and cash, making it the fourth-largest bank in lowa.

• Tele-Communications Inc., the No. 1 U.S. cable-TV operator, is increasing customers' moothly bills by 5 perceot to 5.5 percent as of June, partly because of the National Football League's buge oew television cootracts.

 Breed Technologies Inc. is dismissing 25 percent of its 11,000 workers worldwide and taking a \$350 million pretax charge as it consolidates the nine companies it acquired in the ernment investigation in the 1990s. last two years. The airbag maker posted a loss from operations of \$800,000 for the quarter coded Dec. 31, against a like profit of \$3.1 million a year earlier.

Feb. 12, 1998

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PORK BELLIES (CMER)

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As Tokyo's Stimulus

Dismays Summers

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — The dollar rose for a secood day against the yen Thursday after Deputy Treasury he was disappointed with Japan's efforts to revive its economy.

"The yen's receot strength was based on expectations that Japan's going to do something positive," said Keith Woodfin of Foreign Exchange Analytics. "Sentiment is

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

swinging the other way, and the fears expressed by Summers just exacerbated that."

The dollar was at 124.515 yen in 4 P.M. trading, up from 123.510 yen oo Wednesday

Traders rushed to buy dollars after Mr. Summers said recent Japafter Mr. Summers our anese moves were insufficient.

fidence in the outlook for the Jap-anese economy bas deteriorated." The dollar slipped to 1.8088 Deutsche marks from 1.8190 DM

after reports showed the German ecocomy improving and the U.S. economy losing steam. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the U.S. economy could face "very, very substantial" conse-

queoces if Asia's economic crisis worseoed. Mr. Rubin issued his warning after meeting privately with members of the House Agriculture Committee.

The dollar slipped to 1.4538 Swiss francs from 1.4624 francs and to 6.0625 French francs from 6.0955 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6404

Dollar Gains on Yen Greenspan Helps Dow Set Another Record

NEW YORK — Stocks rose to a

third consecutive day of records on Thursday, erasing losses, after Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, predicted that the Asian ecocomic crisis would have limited impact oo the United

The retailer Sears, Roehuck & Co. led the gains.

Stocks had fallen earlier after two days of records as slumping Asian markets renewed coocern that weak currencies and economies in the region will cut U.S. company profits. Mr. Greenspan's comments.

aloog with a record low yield at the Treasury's auction of 30-year bonds, point to a sceeario for growcompany profits, investors

to be a good environment for equit- get worse if Congress does oot apies," said Joseph Stocke, senior investment manager at Meridian In-

U.S. STOCKS

8,369.60, rebounding from a 76point loss when the Treasury said it sold 30-year bonds at the lowest year, some investors said.

Nasday composite index gained Capital Management in Seattle. 5.80 to 1,714.35. "If we get a scenario wh

York Stock Exchange.

"We have an economy with a Foreign Relations Committee that moderate growth rate, low inflation Asia's impact on the U.S. economy

prove additional money for the International Mooetary Fund.

The Dow Jones industrial average Robert Rubin had said the U.S. rose 55.05 points to close at a record economy could face "very very economic crisis worsened.

Eveo if Asia does slow, low interest rates and steady economic growth will give stocks a boost this

interest rate in 20 years.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 4.13 points to 1,024.14, and the Nasdar appropriate to 1,024.14, and the Nasdar appropriate index and the funds manager at Bank of America

"If we get a scenario where school of thought that would sug-Mr. Greenspan told the Senate gest the Fed would then ease" interest rates.

Informix, the most active stock in ruary 1996 auction.

and low interest rates, and that tends should be limited, although it could U.S. trading, rose after the database pected profit in its fourth quarter. The company said it held down costs and benefited from higher

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STOCK WARREST

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Retailers such as Sears, Roebuck and Wal-Mart gained after the government reported sales rose 2.4 per-cent in the 12 months ended in January and an industry group predicted the strength would continue this

The benchmark 30-year U.S. bood fell 7/32 to 103 22/32, pushing its yield up 2 basis points to 5.86

The Treasury sold the new bonds Declining and advancing issues there's a real weakening in the rate were evenly matched on the New of economic growth, there's a large at a yield of 5.822 percent, the lowest since the government began regular. est since the government began reg-ular sales of the securities in 1977. The previous low yield at 30-year sales was 6.119 percent at the Feb-

Mutual-Fund Investors Pour Money Into Bonds

NEW YORK -- The level of fresh investments in U.S. stock mutual funds last mooth was about twothirds of what went into these funds in January 1997, while bond fund inflows were the highest since Au-

The Investment Company Insti-tute said that a net of about \$18.5 hillion was invested in stock funds last month, down from last January's record \$28.9 billion.

Last month marked the worst kickoff to a new year in terms of net oew investments in equity funds since 1995, the ICI reported.

oet \$11.5 billioo flowed to bond the highest in almost four years as funds in January, compared with net inflows of just \$3.59 hillion in the year-earlier period and up \$5.6 bil-

The fall of long-term U.S. interest rates to historically low levels the U.S. equities market to record is driving a resurgence of interest in beights. bond mutual funds to levels not seen in more than four years," said Gavin erage and other benchmarks, includ-Quill, director of business analysis ing the Standard & Poor's 500 Inat Scudder Kemper Investments Inc.

the Asian markets stabilize.

Scudder and T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. are reporting higher net inflows to stock funds this mooth than January, which is helping spur

The Dow Jones Industrial Avdex, are all reaching records.

AMEX

The industry trade group also re- said, while investments in interna- flows are at more subdued rates," ported Thursday that an estimated tional stocks funds at Scudder are said Steven Norwitz, a spokesman at Baltimore-based T. Rowe Price Associates Inc.

The first six weeks of the oew year tend to be when funds attract the most oew investments as the highest oumber of 401(k) retirement plans are established and U.S. fund holders reallocate their savings plans.

Investors have been pouring mooey into stock funds for more

than two years. A record oet \$231.29 billion was This mooth, our equity fund in- invested in equity funds last year, Bond fund inflows have slowed flows are running at higher rates somewhat in February, Mr. Quill than January while bond fund in- \$221.6 billion in 1996.

Prudential Weighs Going Public

NEWARK, New Jersey - Prudeotial Insurance Co. of America, the higgest life insurer in the United States, said Thursday that it was considering becoming a publicly traded company to gain more access to financial markets and to speed

The 125-year-old insurer, following its rival, Equitable Cos., which demutualized in 1992, said it might become a company owned by shareholders instead of a metual owned by

Such a reorganization would "distribute the full value of the company," said its chairman and chief executive, Arthur

Prudential, ooce called "The Rock" for its financial stability, lost its "AAA" credit rating and reputation as one of the oation's most admired companies following a huge gov-

The company admitted to bilking brokerage and insurance customers, and agreed to pay more than \$1.4 billioo to settle

HEATING OIL (HINES)

HHI FADER GASOLINE (NMER)

CAC 40 (MATIF)
FF200 per index point
F60 98 2025/3 7190.0 3184.0 — 63.0 40.8/2
Jun 98 2025/3 3174.5 3157.0 — 62.5 2.004
Sep 98 N.T., N.T. 3177.5 — 63.5 12.395

Commodity Indexes

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE)

LIBOR 1-MONTH (CMER)
SI militor- ph of 100 pct.
Fab 79 94.38 94.38 unch. 19,575
Mar 98 94.37 94.36 94.36 unch. 10,574
Apr 98 94.45 94.44 unch. 4.397
Est squa R.A. Wed's suites 2,332
Wed's open Int 36,977, up 230

EURODOLLARS (CMER)
SI militori-pto of 100 pct.
Feb 98 94,79 94,77 94
Apr 98 94,49 94,77 94
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BRITISH POUND (CMER)

GERMAN MARK (CMER)

JAPANESE YEN (CMER)

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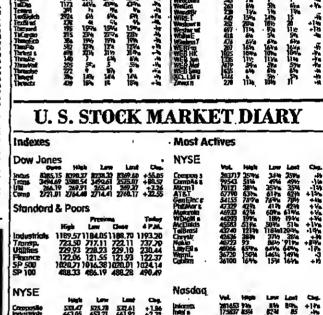
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2-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE)

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The 300 most traded stocks of the day,

up to the closing on Wall Street. The Associated Press.



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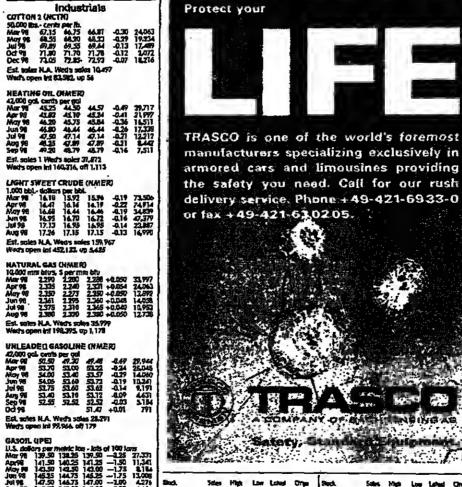
Market Sales

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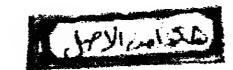
REVERSE STOCK SPLIT



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EUROPE



Retailers saving as Sears, Rock and Wal Man gained after the efforted sales rose 1.8 cent in the 12 months ended no the analytic world countries of any area in industry acomb bare from in order to the control of the countries of the countrie

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OCK MARKET DIAN

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ther Record Applicants Tarrying U.S. mading, rose after the dual suffware marker reported an e. On Reforms, EU Says The company said it held a co

International Herald Tribune

Amid increasing concern that its Central European candidates are faltering in enacting reforms needed to join the European Union, the EU's point man on eastward expansion, Hans van den broek, warnen roman tond 121 32 10 103 2032 per on Thursday that it must act quickly to restructure its bloated industry and lower tariffs on EU goods.

During a two-day visit to Poland,

Mr. van den Broek pledged more EU support in talks with Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz.

"We both agreed that we must now cooperate with the Polish government very intensively to guaran-tee that there is a restructuring plan on the table by the middle of this year," Mr. van den Broek said in Warsaw.

Into Bonds concerns the countries it expects to admit in the countries in the cou The soft language masked deeper concerns the EU has with all five of

The concern, ornicials in Disaster and States Norwitz across and Central Europe say, is that the Baltimore based T Roughner Central Europeaus, especially specially land, the Czech Republic and Slovenia, are basking in the glow of favorable reports the European Commission issued in July, rather than pressing on with complex and often politically difficult reforms.

The EU's executive body decided in December to lauoch accelerated membership talks with the Czechs, for meeting the EU's requirements.

By Carl Gewirtz

Insernational Herald Tribune

PARIS - Although high tech-

gology is transforming the way

illegal money gets laundered, ex-

perts warned European govern-

ments Thursday not to overlook

the opportunities that such a low-

tech event as the physical coo-

version of European currencies in-

to the euro will offer to criminals.

the European Monetary Union,

which is scheduled to begin oext

year, the physical change into the

new currency is take place over the

For countries participating in

Poles, Hungarians, Slovenes and Estonians. The talks, detailed negotiations on bringing the applicants' laws and economies up to EU standards, are to begin March 31.

"We are exhorting all of them to get a move on," said a senior commission official, who asked not to be identified. 'The temptation has been to think the negotiations will all be sorted out in a big political deal, but there's a huge amount of work on such details as technical standards and product liability, for instance, that they'll all need before they can

compete in a single market." it's not sexy sluff," he added. "It's 80,000 pages of really boring. dry legislation, and they have to come up with a way to take it on and implement it in a way that satisfics us. It's oot the stuff of headlines, but ils the nuts and bolts of the way the EU works.'

EU officials say the Czech Republic, for instance, must speed up the restructuring of its finance sector and heavy industry. Poland has many large companies to privatize and a vast farm economy to restructure. Slovenia needs to further liberalize its economy, and Hungary must sort out its high public debt. All the applicants, they added, are behind in

retraining their bureaucracies. Calling the criticism unfair, the Central Europeans say they are compiling their 'national programs'

Money Laundering, will bave to be

carefully monitored to prevent

The meeting of experts, held at the Organization for Economic Co-

operation and Development, did

not spell out what the Europeans

will need to do. The report simply

stated that "further consideration

must be given to the consequences

But the thrust of the meeting

was that criminal activity is going

hi-tech and using unconventional

That event, said experts of the als such as lawyers, accountants, of transactions." the report said.

Change to Euro Is Ripe for Criminals

criminals from exploiting it.

rencies into the euro.

Peugeot Expects Loss for '97 Over Restructuring

PARIS - PSA Peugeot Citroen SA said Thursday it would post a net loss for 1997 because of efforts to reorganize its management and manufacturing.

The French carmaker said preliminary figures indicated a loss of 2.5 billion French francs (\$409.1 million) for last year, compared with a profit of 7.34 million francs for 1996.

Without one-time charges of 3.46 billioo francs, net income would bave reached 900 million francs in 1997, the company said.

Peugeot said it would give final figures March 25.

Operating income after one-time charges fell to 700 million francs from 1.7 billion francs in 1996, Sales rose to 186.8 billion francs from 172.7 billion francs

The company said it took charges to cover its decision to merge management and manufacturiog of its Peugeot and Citroen brands as well as to cover a loss on futures contracts and the costs of pulling out of a ioint venture in India.

Peugeot shares fell 14 francs to 848. The announcemeor was made after the close of the stock

But no evidence was presented

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Philips, Reversing a Loss, **Vows to Cut Costs Further**

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands turned to profit last year, and it pledged to continue its drive to rebuild financial credibility in the wake of its earnings collarse in 1996.

Net profit in 1997 hit an all-time high of 5.73 billioo guilders (\$2.79 billion), bolstered by one-time gains of 2.44 billion guilders, mainly from the sale of a stake in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. The company had a loss of 590 million guilders in 1996.

Profit from operations rose to 3.29 billion guilders, compared with an operating profit of 723 million guilders for 1996. Annual sales rose to 76.45 billion guilders from 69.20 billion in 1996.

Philips's share price rose 4.2 guilders, to 145 in Amsterdam. "Profit will surge because of restructuring, you'll see those figures coming through in the next two years," Jan Coen Balt, an analyst at Effectenbank Stroeve, said, referring to earnings.

In the fourth quarter, Philips re-ported a net profit of 2.67 billion guilders, compared with a loss of 949 million guilders loss a year earlier. Fourth-quarter sales rose to 24.19 ippines. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

The company raised its 1997 div-Phillips NV said Thursday it had re-ideod payment to 2 guilders per share from 1.60. ''Our aim was to restore con-

billion guilders from 21.41 billion.

fidence after 1996 and considerable progress has been made on a number of froots," said Philips's president, Cor Boonstra.

Philips also said it would continue its cost-cutting drive to improve profitability. "We still see ample room for cost reductions," he said.

The company sounded a note of caution for the first half of the current year, especially for its operations in Asia and Brazil, where Philips predicts continuing weakness.

Philips predicted that weakening local demand would take its toll oo Asian markets hit by recent financial turmoil, but it ruled oot significant damage to overall earnings.

'Obviously we are monitoring the situation very carefully," the chief financial officer, Jan Hommen, said. He added that for now,

'the impact has been negligible.' Less than 4 percent of its sales come from the nations hit by Asia's crisis - Indooesia, South Korea Thailand, Malaysia and the Phil-

Surging Sales of Network Equipment Help Net Profit Jump 23% at Nokia

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputches

HELSINKI - Nokia Group said Thursday that fourth-quarter profit of profit as a proportion of sales rose 23 percent as demand for its oetwork equipment soared, and profitability in its mobile-phone unit increased,

The Finnish company's profit rose to 2.02 billion markkaa (\$365.3 millioo) from 1.65 billion markkaa. The company said it would raise its dividend to 7.5 markkaa per share from 3.5 and split each share into two.

The company's stock price surged 5.6 percent, to 480.20 markkaa. 'The result was excellent," said with Arctos Funds. "Growth oo the network side brings stability, while efficiency on the handset side is tremendous where new models will

speed up sales." Nokia is beefing up its networking unit, which sells equipment for transmitting calls between mobile phones, as it faces increased competition.

For all of 1997, operating profit in the mobile-phone unit rose 168 per-

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cent, to 3.84 billion markkaa; the unit's operating margin - a measure more than doubled, to 13.9 percent.

Nokia said sales in some Southeast Asian countries were "slower than anticipated" at the beginning of this year, but that did not have any "material impact" oo fourthquarter sales,

Nokia's chief executive, Jorma Ollila, said demand elsewhere had compensated for weakness in Southeast Asia. The Asia-Pacific regioo accounted for 23 percent of Nokia's sales in 1997, compared Mika Heikkilae, a moocy manager with 59 percent for Europe and 18 percent for North America. China is now Nokia's third-largest customer, Mr. Ollila said.

Nokia also said it would continue to invest in Asian markets "with the aim of securing and strengthening our future market positioo. Nokia would retain an annual

sales-growth target of between 25 percent and 35 percent. (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

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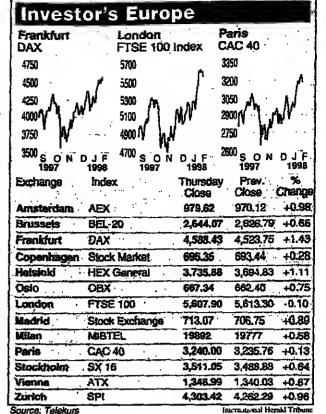
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Very briefly:

· British Telecommunications PLC's third-quarter pretax profit rose 12 percent in £1.02 billion (\$1.67 billion) from a ear earlier as the company benefited from a £238 million break-up fee from its aborned purchase of MCI Communications Corp. But BT said it was still eager to expand in the United States. BT also anoounced that Chairman Iain Vallance would work part-time from July 31.

· Royal KNP BT NV, a Dutch packaging maker and paper distributor, plans to sell the packaging business or spinning it off into a separately listed company. Its fourth-quarter profit rose 34 percent, to 123 million guilders (\$60 million).

• BICC PLC is selling its British construction and building-wire business to Delta PLC, which in turn is selling its power utilities, accessories and cables business to BICC. BICC will pay £5.2 million to make up the difference in the values of the sinesses. The deal will result in 870 job cuts in Britain.

 Martin Ebner, the Swiss investor who helped engineer the merger of Union Bank of Switzerland with Swiss Bank Corp., denied rumors that he had bought shares in Commerzbank AG, saying his BZ Group investment company would keep its combined 4 percent stake in Swiss banks for "at least" 18

• Den norske Bank, Norway's biggest bank, said its pretax operating profit slid 4 percent in 1997, to 2.62 billion kroner (\$345.8 million) as it suffered losses on shipping investments, the turmoil in Asia, and a failed takeover of BNbank.

• Willis Corroon Group PLC, the British insurance broker, said pretax profit rose 4 percent, to £95.5 million in 1997, but the company was downbeat about the current year, saying insurance rates were falling.

 Casino Guichard-Perrachon SA, a French food retailer. agreed to buy 75 percent of the Argentine supermarket chain Libertad SA for \$200 million, Bloomberg, Reuters Bloomherg, Reuters

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Feb. 12 Telekurs

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Merrill Gets Ready For Japan 'Big Bang'

retail brokerage business in Japan, a ulation expected in coming months. move expected to fuel competition as the country rolls toward its "Big Bang" financial deregulation.

Merrill will be the first foreign firm to enter the Japanese retail brokerage marker.

Analysts said Japanese houses would feel the pinch, particularly as to the Japanese market by foreign the move could signal a fall in in-come from commissions, on which corporate clients. the Japanese firms rely heavily.

The new firm, Merrill Lynch Securities Japan, plans to hire as many new company would be successful as 2,000 employees of the failed Yamzichi Securities Co. and to occupy offices currently housing Yamaichi operations.

The fully owned subsidiary will primarily serve retail investors and could be ready to open its doors for business by June, pending approval from the Finance Ministry.

While Merrill's intention to build a domestic brokerage chain out of the rubble of Yamaichi has been widely reported for months, the an- for positions at the new firm and that

TOKYO — Merrill Lynch & Co.

Tokyo — Merrill Lynch & Co.

of the plan, which is increasingly presented its plans Thursday for a seen as emblematic of the dereg-

Japan's push for financial dereg-ulation begins April 1, the start of the new business year.

Merrill's strategy of targeting retail investors, long the exclusive domain of Japan's big brokerages, breaks with the traditional approach

But Winthrop Smith, chairman of Merrill Lynch International, said the as Japanese investors, aware of changes in the regulatory environ-ment, looked to maximize investment returns.

Mr. Smith said the Japanese unit could be profitable in about three years, and that most of the \$200 to \$300 million the brokerage expects to use to capitalize the new firm

would be for payroll expenses. He said all of Yamaichi's 7,500 empluyees had been invited to apply nouncement Thursday was the first no employee would be asked to take



Winthrop Smith, the chairman of Merrill Lynch International.

pay cut to join the company. Ronald Strauss, chief operating of-ficer of Merrill Lynch International, will become president and chief op-

erating officer of the new company. Merrill already has 1,000 staff in Japan, operating corporate and insoftutional accounts, and is the leading foreign underwriter of yen-denominated bonds.

Japan's economy and stock mar-

ket have been buffeted by a downturn for most of this decade, Merrill characterized its move into the world's second-largest economy as a long-term commitment.

Yamaichi, Japan's fourth largest brokerage, collapsed in November with debts estimated at \$29 billion. It was the country's biggest business failure since World War II.

(Reuters, AFP)

Trade Surplus Soars for Japan

TOKYO - Japan's surplus in trade of goods and services soared 60 percent in 1997, fanning speculation that Washingtoo would increase pressure on Tokyo to take measures to raise domesuc demand, economists

said Thursday, The current-account surplus rose to 11,44 trillioo yen (\$92.63 billion) in 1997, the

Finance Ministry said. Exports rose steadily because of the weakness of the yen, while growth in imports slowed because of sluggish demand, the Finance Ministry said. "The G-7 meeong is coming

up, and I'm sure the U.S. side will put pressure on Japan to increase imports, said Mamoru Yamaguchi, an economist at Nikko Research Center. He was referring to a Feb. 21 meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial nations.

(Reuters, AFP)

Indian Firms Plan Merger **In Cosmetics**

BOMBAY — Hindustan Lever Ltd. said Thursday it would join forces with Pond's (India) Ltd. and huy out its partner in another cosmetics venture, giving it more products, managers and technology to cash in on the growing wealth of the Indian consumer.

The terms of the merger of the companies - each of which is 51 percent owned by the British-Dutch food and cosmetics company Unilever NV - have not been decirled

Hindustan Lever, India's largest soap and cosmedes maker, also announced that its profit rose 35 percent last year, to 5.6 billion rupees (S144.6 million) as sales rose 18 percent, to 78.2 billion rupees.

'We understand the Indian con sumer better than anyone else," said B. Dadiseth, chairman of Hindustan Lever.

Share prices in both companies rose. Pond's stock price finished 56.00 rupees bigber, at 1,022.00, and Hindustan Lever shares rose 5.00 rupees, to 1,383.00.

"It's good for shareholders," said Devesh Kumar, head of research at ABN Amro Hoare Govett India Securiues Ltd. "It's in line with the global trend of merging small businesses into big ones to meet emerging competition."

Hindustan Lever also raised its stake in Lakme Lever Ltd. to 100 percent from 50 percent by buying out Lakme Ltd.'s stake in the cosmedes joint venture for 2 billion

The purchase will give Hindustan Lever control of Lakme's cosmetic brands, Hindustan Lever will also pay to acquire two of Lakme's factories in western India for a price to be decided later.

"The employees of these under-takings will enjoy continuity of service and full protection of their existing terms and conditions,' Lakme said in a news release. Hindustan Lever and Lakme set

up the joint venture three years ago. Hindustan Lever's sales of soaps and detergents climbed 15 percent, to 33.60 billion rupees in 1997. Its personal product sales, including toothpaste, shampoo and cosmetics, rose 47 percent, to 8.84 billion ru-

Exports rose 25 percent, to 11.52 billion rupees, but the company said growth could slow this year because of the economic problems of some Asian countries.



Very briefly:

The International Monetary Fund said it would relax ... key condition of Bangkok's bailout amid concern that the program was hampering the economy's recovery. Thailand will be allowed to have a budget deficit of 1 percent to 2 percent of gross domestic product in the year ending Sept. 30. instead of having to achieve a surplus of 1 percent of GDP.

Taiwan and China have shifted their politically sensitive talks on cross-strait shipping to Bangkok from Hong Kong and dodge the media limelight, Taiwan officials said.

· Moody's Investors Service Inc. is considering raising the ratings of major Japanese consumer electronics makers, given the high potential of next-generation television sets with information equipment, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., Sony Corp., Sharp Curp., Toshiba Corp. and Mitsuhishi Electric Corp. have the resources to enter the next-generation TV market, it said.

• A former senior Japanese Finance Ministry officiat i being sued by an art dealer demanding the return of 200 million yen (\$1.62 million) in commissions. The suit said a former Banking Bureau chief, Hiromi Tokuda, 75, had arranged for the sale of Renoir paintings, Rodin sculpture and other pieces to Takefuji, a finance company.

 Malaysia received the support of a panel of high-tech executives meeting to advise the country on its multimedia zone, with at least two companies pledging fresh investment. · Shanghai wants to attract more large-scale chemical and petrochemical projects through the construction of a new industrial zone, Mayor Xu Kuangdi said.

 China's urban unemployment rate is about 7 percent, or double official figures, when idled workers sent home from ailing factories are counted, the Press Digest said.

 Australia's jobless rate stalled at 8.2 percent in January. with the creation of just 2,400 jobs during the month.

• Foreign investors bought a net 628 billion yen (\$5.1 billion) in Japanese securines in December, reversing net selling of 875 billion yen the previous month, the Finance Ministry

Derivatives in Asia: Whose Risk?

Bloomberg News

SEOUL - South Korea and Wall Street may be on a collision course over a hidden side 10 Asia's currency crisis: derivatives,

A Seoul court this week temporarily blocked a \$180 million payment due to J. P. Morgan & Co. after a South Korean brokerage said the U.S. bank had failed to warn it about the risks of investing in currency derivatives.

The injunction raises questions for foreign bankers here; Will companies honor contracts they entered into before currencies tumbled? More importantly, will the courts?

"It scares the hell out of me." said Dick Van Dem Ham, the country bead at ABN-AMRO Bank in Seonl, "You don't have any legal

certainty anymore." To some bankers, the ruling suggests South Korea may backpedal on promises to liberalize its economy and financial markets in exchange for \$60 billion in emergency credit arranged by the International Monetary Fund.

The dispute comes less than a month after creditor banks crafted an agreement to restructure as much as \$24 billion in short-term South Korean bank debt. J. P. Morgan is one of those banks.

As South Korea and other Asian countries slide into recession, other financial transactions may wind up in court, bankers and lawyers said. If so, many companies and investors may be reluctant to put their money in Asia.

J.P. Morgan's dispute with SK Securities may be the tip of an iceberg. A lawyer in Seoul said Thursday that he was working on several cases involving companies that had signed currency derivatives con-

tracts with international banks.

"The legal system is a problem across the region," said Daniel Hemmant of Guinness Flight in London. "Unless it is greatly strengthened, it's hard to see the aggressive resumption of foreign lending, which Asia obviously needs pretty badly.

Bankers are understandably reluctant to talk about the possibility that made with South Korean clients may be coming due with losses. But they concede that the derivatives markets in South Korea, and throughout Asia, are potential minefields now that Asian currencies have collapsed.

A year ago, investment bankers eagerly pitched derivatives to South Korean companies. With benchmark Japanese interest rates at 0.5 percent, it made sense to sign contracts that would allow investors to borrow in yen and invest in higheryielding Asian currencies, many of which were linked to the dollar until last year.

'It's not an accident that a lot of derivatives got sold in Korea," said John Ellis, head of the Asia derivatives desk at Bank of America in Hong Kong. "It was as good as lending money.

South Korean firms and some analysts who cover them suggest that investment bankers were quicker to tout the benefits of a derivatives contract than they were to lay out the possible risks. That is the crux of the complaint by SK Securities.

SCENE: The Going in the Asian Near Term May Be Rough

Continued from Page 15

which in other ways is going well. They could also devastate the balance sheets of Western banks with large exposure to Indonesia's \$70 billion private sector

Meanwhile, the turnaround in Asian trade data should be a big worry else-where. South Korea is now running trade surpluses. But exports in dollar terms remain almost flat. The improvement has been almost entirely because of a collapse in imports - down 40 percent in January.

It is much the same story in Thailand. Exports should in theory pick up as the benefits of a weaker currency take effect. But even export industries are being hurt by shortages of cash or credit to inance raw material imports.

Continued from Page 15

terminal, Reuters 3000, on which its growth depends. Executives also sought

to reassure analysts and institutional in-

vestors at meetings in London and New York on Wednesday and Thursday. In an interview published in The Wall

Street Journal on Thursday, Chief Ex-

ecutive Peter Job said he had no knowl-

edge of any wrongdoing but added it was "possible" that employees of the U.S. unit, Reuters Analytics, might have

committed crimes. He acknowledged

Bloomberg's lead in bond coverage and said Reuters tried to compare its products with those of its competitors,

"If in the course of doing compar-

The charm offensive appeared to be

but he insisted that was legal.

For a world haunted by the specter of

deflation, the Asian import collapse is peg to the dollar stays, the bottom could more troublesome than an Asian export boom. Japan's latest stimulations may offset contraction elsewhere, but that is still an "if." China has slashed its export growth targets for 1998, and further

downward revisions look likely. Local storms yet to be unleashed, meanwhile, could well be brewing in Hong Kong and Malaysia. The size of domestic debt, a surge in real interest rates, a huge fall in asset prices, sudden contraction in loan growth, and regional investment losses could easily add up to bankruptcies on a scale similar to that of the early 1980s.

Hong Kong's currency peg should hold for now, but the deflation of mountainous asset prices and uncompetitive prices for much else has barely begun. Hong Kong is still only six months away from its asset price peak. Assuming the

REUTERS: In Battle With Bloomberg, an Investigation Hurts

520 pence last week but still down from

the level of 636 pence before news of the

the news" of the investigation, said Simon Baker, an analyst at Teather &

"We think the market overreacted to

Still, Reuters faces an uphill battle to

maintain its share of the \$5.8 billion worldwide market for financial market

news. According to the most recent sta-

tistics from Waters Information Ser-

vices, a New York research firm, Reu-

ters's revenues from financial news

services rose 7 percent, to \$2.25 billion in 1996, while Bloomberg's revenues

surged 30 percent, to \$918 million from

the Wall Street Journal, took a whop-

investigation broke late last month.

Greenwood.

easily be 18 months away. If the peg goes, the pain would be greater, but of shorter duration.

Rumors of black holes in the commercial paper and derivatives markets abound in the region generally.

It is hard to imagine that there are not more Peregrines out there. The Hong Kong investment bank went under quickly because its exposure to worthless Indonesian commercial paper was well known. Banks, bowever, can mostly cover up loans problems for a while, hoping that markets will turn in time to save them. They usually do not, as Japan can testify.

The long term outlook remains bright. Asia now presents remarkable buying opportunities. But in the near term, more pain than gain is in the

Dow Jones Markets division, the former No. 2 financial news service provider. While some analysts praise the Reu-ters 3000 terminal, which aims to match

Bloomberg in its ability to analyze his-torical bond- and stock-market trends, it

bas been plagued by problems. The company installed just under 28,000 ter-

minals in 1997, short of its target of

30,000, and the product is still under-

ing tests in the vital U.S. market.

Bloomberg also has shown its nimbleness in other ways. The company

won kudos from London's pinstripe bri-

gade recently for offering in provide a free terminal at home for 60 days to any

investment banker laid off as a result of

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the merger wave that is shaking up the financial-services industry. "The fact that they offered that stuck in my anive analyses, and trying to improve our products and services, we have imonly 70,000 installed terminals. The swift pace of change in the inproperly used certain Bloomberg produstry is exemplified not only by prietary information, then we, as an eth-Bloomberg's rapid ascent in recent mind," said an economist at one major years but by the implosion at Dow Jones investment bank, who spoke on conical company, will take appropriate steps to fix the problems, he said. dition of anonymity. "That's a great & Co. That company, which publishes

marketing initiative.

paying off. Reuters shares rose 14 pence ping \$922.5 million charge Monday to Thursday to 590. That is up from a low of write down the value of its unprofitable

MERCEDES: Asia Loses Its Lease on Status-Symbol Car Continued from Page 15

ing garage into what is known as the Market of the Formerly Rich. Shoppers can buy secondhand Mercedes cars and other prestigious marques at bargain prices. Also for sale: used jewelry, fur coats, golf clubs and a single-engine Cessna aircraft, parked

right in the middle of Bangkok. The president of the dealership, Wasun Potipimpanon, rides around the capital in a flashy symbol of the good old days: a stretch Mercedes limousine. Speaking on a mobile phone from his E-class model, Mr. Wasun said sales of

Mercedes had reached the bottom in Phailand. The market of the boom years, he added, was "abnormal."

The market normally should be

around 7,000 to 8,000 units," he says, a in other markets," said Eckhard Zanger, level, he estimated, that would now take a Daimler-Benz spokesman in Stuttgart. about three years to reach.

For the company that owns Mercedes, Daimler-Benz AG, the decline in he said. numbers probably will not hurt that much, analysts said.

Asian sales, including Japan, accounted for 11.8 percent of its car sales in 1996, according to Klaus-Juergen Melzner, an auto industry analyst at Deutsche Bank AG in Frankfurt.

Assuming a "worst-case scenario" of a 50 percent drop in sales across the Asian market, he said, Daimler-Benz's total vehicle sales, including trucks, would fall 4 percent and its revenue would fall 2 percent. 'To be honest, a couple of thousands

up and down in those markets are really

The company registered double-digit sales growth in North America last year, But volume is not where Daimler

makes its money in Southeast Asia, according to analysts. The company can charge more for its cars in Asia. Margins in Asia are much wider

than they find in America and Europe, where things are much more competitive," Mr. Dunne said, "And Mercedes, although it's a prestigious marque in North America and in Europe, doesn't carry as much weight as it does here in Asia, where Mercedes is everything for the wealthy elite. It's the

pinnacle of image and success."

John Schmid in Frankfurt contriboutweighed by very good developments uted to this article.

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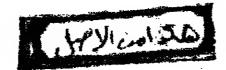
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Dallas Hires Coach

FOOTBALL The Dailas Cowboys hired Chan Gailey, the Pittsburgh Steelers offensive coordinator, as head coach Thursday. He succeeds Barry Switzer, who resigned at the end of last season.

"This is the beginning of the dream." Gailey said. "Another part of that dream is that we get to stand on that podium some late January afternoon and have a hand on that Lombardi Trophy. "The end of the dream, the final dream." he said, would be for the team to be "champions with class, dignity and

"That's what I'm about." he

The Cowboy owner, Jerry Jones, had never met Gailey before Sunday, but they clicked quickly.

In the end, after all the homework was done, the image of our next coach came very, very clear,"

Jones said. (AP)

Kiwis Beat Australia

CRICKET Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, hit an unbeaten 111 Thursday to guide his team to a seven wicket victory over Australia in Napier, New Zealand, in the third one-day international of a four game series.

Fleming scored his runs off 137 balls as the Kiwis, chasing 236, reached 240 for three with 10 balls to spare. Australia batted first and made 236 all out in 49 overs. Chris Cairns, the New Zealand bowler, took five wickets for 42 runs. Australia leads, 2-1.

Freeman Seeks Peace

ATHLETICS Cathy Freeman, the world 400 meters champion, plans to move to London because of the demands being placed on ber in the huild-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics, Nick Bideau, her manager said Thursday. Freeman, an Australian aborigine, wants to move so she can train in peace, Bideau said.

Kiefer Upsets Muster

TENNIS Nicolas Kiefer knocked out Thomas Muster, the defending champion, in the second round of the Dubai Open on Thursday. The German, ranked No. 26 in

the world, frustrated the seventh seed. 7-6, 6-4, with aggressive serves and volleys. The first set was evenly matched, but Muster lost touch as the match progressed, making many unforced errors.

"I attacked forehand throughout the match, which I think upset his

rhythm," Kiefer said.

On Wednesday in San Jose, Andre Agassi showed the power and focus that once earned him three grand slam titles as he laid waste French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, 6-3, 6-1, in the second round of the Sybase Open. Second seed Michael Chang bear George Basti, 7-5, 6-3. (Reuters)



Andre Agassi serving to Gustavo Kuerten in San Jose.

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Hassan Gabsi of Tunisia, left, heading the hall despite the attentions of Munbada Kisombe of Congo.

Tunisian Substitute Sinks Congo

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso - Ziad Tlemcani was the unlikely match winner as Tunisia beat Congo, 2 1, in African Nations Cup Group B on Thursday.

The veteran striker, dropped after Tunisia lost to Ghana on Monday, came on as a substitute and then scored.

Congolese defenders stood still expecting an offside whistle and Tlemcani ran through unopposed to place the hall low past goalkeeper Nkombe Tokala. Tunisia is tied with and Ghana and Congo at the top of the group.

Faouzi Rouissi of Tunisia wasted a peoalty kick before Mehdi Ben Slimane gave Tunisia the lead in the 31st-minute, when he hooked a Tarek Thabet pass

into the comer of the goal. Okitankoyi Kimoto, a fullback, leveled five minutes later. A pass from captain Ekanza Simha was deflected into Kimoto's path and he drilled the

ball past Ali Boumnijel.

by Tunisia, which has qualified for the World Cup finals. Tunisia's star mid

WORLD SOCCER fielder, Zonbeir Beya, once again disappointed and was replaced by Kais

Godhbane early in the second balf. On Wednesday night, host Burkina Faso beat Algeria, 2-1, in a Group A match in Ouagadougou. Substitute Kassoum Ouedraogo gave

the host the lead in the 65th minute with a penalty. An opportunist goal in the 77th minute from Seydou Traore made it 2-0. Moussa Saih scored for Algeria with a peoalty kick in the 80th minute.

TTALY Juventus and Inter Milan both squandered 1-0 leads and had to settle for 1-1 draws in Serie A matches Wed-

Striker Filippo Inzaghi gave Juve the lead against Brescia sbortly after halffirst goal in Serie A to give the home It was an unconvincing performance team, which is near the bottom of the

Gullit Hears Through Media That Chelsea Has Fired Him

Agence France-Presse

LONDON - The London soccer club Chelsea surprised the soccer world on Thursday by replacing player-man-ager Ruud Gullit with Gianluca Vialli. Gullit, who brought Chelsea its first tropby since 1971 with a victory in last year's FA Cup final, seemed more sur-

prised than anyone, and he sharply contradicted the club's version of events. According Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, Gullit, whose contract was to expire June 30, had refused to sign a new deal despite long talks. "I am per-sonally very sorry that he has gone, but

at the end of the day you have to face facts, and his wage demands were way beyond our means," Bates said. Gullit said: "I was astounded to find out from the media that I have been

replaced as Chelsea coach by Gianluca

Colin Hutchinson, the managing di-rector of Chelsea, said that he had been unable to inform Gullit about his replacement by Vialli because Gullit, a former international player for the Netherlands, had "brought the lunchtime meeting to an abrupt end."

CROSSWORD

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place on Thursday, Feb. 5, when Colin Hutchinson and myself talked very amicahly about a new two-year extension

was there any doubt in my mind that I would re-sign. In fact, I specifically told anyone who asked that I would sign a new deal after more talks - there were

Hutchinson said that while the team was "prepared to give Rund a contract which we believe would have made him the best paid manager in the Premiership. we were not able to meet what be wanted

and expected." but he was looking forward to the challenge, "I am amazed and delighted but I think I am cut out for the joh," he said. The Italian striker faces a baptism of fire: Chelsea faces a League Cup semifinal second-leg match with Arsenal, which leads 2-1, and a Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinal with the Spanish team Real Betis at the beginning of March.

But Gullit said: "I was only asked to arrend one meeting in the last six months to discuss the future. This meeting took

'At no time during my discussion

no more talks!"

Vialli said that he was still in shock

league, a valuable point

In Florence, Inter took the lead through Ronaldo, who appears to have rediscovered his scoring touch after a barren spell. He fired a free kick into the bottom corner of the Fiorentina goal after 26 minutes. Gabriel Batistuta leveled for Fiorentina before half time with his 15th league goal of the season. Nwankwo Kanu, who joined Inter in 996 but has bad heart problems, played

his first league game for the club. FRANCE Lens let slip a chance to go top of the French first division when it lost, 2-1, Thursday to Chateauroux.

Stephane Dalmat scored for Cahteauxroux, which is oear the bottom of the division, into the lead a minute before balf time. Striker Laurent Dufresne scored the second in the 58th minute. NETHERLANDS Boudewijn Zenden scored twice as PSV Eindhoveo beat

Utrecht, 4-1, oo Wednesday and closed time. But Alberto Savino headed his the gap on Ajax Amsterdam, which was playing in the Dutch Cup.

PSV suffered an early setback when the Scottish striker Scott Booth, oo loan from Borussia Dortmund, thrust Utrecht ahead in the 18th minute.

Ajax beat Roda JC Kerkrade, 5-0, Wednesday in the cup. It visits Eindhoven on Sunday for a league match.

ENGLAND Marcelo Salas scored

twice as Chile beat England, 2-0, at Wembley, London, in a friendly in-

ternational.
Salas, 23, the South American Player of the Year put Chile ahead after 44 minutes with an impressive goal. He controlled a long pass from Jose Sierra with his left thigh while on the run. Before the ball could hit the ground he had driven it past Nigel Martyn, the England goalie. Salas scored the second from a penalty kick after he had been

fouled by Sol Campbell. Salas flew to Rome oo Thursday to complete his \$18 million transfer from River Plate to Lazio. (AFP, Reuters)

■ Africa Backs Johansson

Africa's ruling soccer body an-nounced Thursday that it would support Lennart Johansson, the president of UEFA, which governs European soccer. in his campaign to become president of FIFA, the governing body of world soc-cer, The Associated Press reported from Ouagadougou.

The Confederation of African Football released a statement saying it would support Johansson as a replacement for Joao Havelange who has said he will retire after this year's World Cup.

After Players Are Mugged

cricket test between South Africa and Pakistan bas been postponed for at least 24 bours after the mug-ging of two Pakistan bowlers left the tourists with just 10 fit players.

The South African cricket board announced the decision Thursday, 13 hours before the first ball was due to be bowled. Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African board, said it hoped to start the game on Saturday if the victims; Saqiain Mushraq and Mohammad Akram, are fit enough Salain. Akram, are fit enough. Saqlain Mushtaq and Mohammad Akram were attacked by three men as they walked to a restaurant in Johannesburg on Wednesday evening.

Saqlain Mushtaq is wearing a neck brace and Mohammad Akram has a cut bowling hand. Rashid Latif, Pakistan's captain, said that, in addition to the mugging victims, he was injured and so were bowlers Shoaih Ahktar and Wagar Younis.

PGA Tour Must Allow Disabled Golfer a Cart

Judge Rules in Favor of Casey Martin After Rejecting Play Fatigue Defense

By Thomas Heath

EUGENE, Oregon — A judge has ruled that the Professional Golfers' Association Tour must make an exception to its ban on motorized carts in tournament play so that the disabled golfer Casey Martin can compete, ending a court case that provoked a national de-

bate over the rights of the disabled.

Martin, 25, who was present in the courtroom during his one-week, non-jury trial against the PGA Tour, hugged his lawyers when Judge Thomas Coffin announced his ruling Wednesday.

Judge Coffin rejected the Tour's defense that walking is integral to the highest levels of Tour competition and that any exception to the no-cart rule would give one player an advantage

Walking "is not significantly tax-ing," Judge Coffin said. "Walking, like breathing, is natural.

The fatigue factor Martin experiences is easily greater than the fatigue ex-perienced by individuals who walked the course.

PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said the Tour would abide by Judge Coffin's decision while it prepared to appeal the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in San Francisco. The Tour has not decided if the option to use a cart will be extended

to all golfers on the Tour.
"We believe firmly in the basic premise of any sport, that one set of rules must be applied equally to all competitors," Finchem said Wednes-day in a statemeot. "Additionally, we believe strongly in the ceotral role walk-ing plays for all competitors in tournament championship golf." He said the Tour believed that the Americans With Disabilities Act "was oot designed or intended to apply to competitors in professional sporting events, including professional tournament

At a news conference after the ruling, Martin said, "I hope 5 to 10 years from now, if I'm still able to play golf, the PGA will lean back and scratch their heads and say, 'Why did we fight this guy?' I realized if I win, it would opeo the way," he said, hreaking down in tears. "That's something to feel good about."

Martin was born with Klippel-Frenaunay-Weber syndrome, a circulatory disorder, in his right leg. His condition has deteriorated to such a degree that he suffers great pain if he plays

golf without a cart. The native of Eugene sued the Tour in federal court here under a provision of the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act to force the Tour to lift its han

against golf carts on the PGA and Nike The PGA Tour is the sport's highest level of competition, with approximate-

ly 200 golfers competing for a total of \$90 million in prize money during 42 events over a year. Martin competes on the Nike Tour, a PGA satellite circuit.

Judge Coffin issued a temporary injunction in November that allowed the former NCAA second-team all-American golfer from Stanford to use a cart pending the trial

Advocates for the disabled said the unnsual circumstances of the case made it difficult to gauge whether it would bave a broad impact for other golfers. Rather, they said the case's significance lay in the fact that it made the Americans With Disabilities Act the subject of a national discussion.

"Casey Martin put the ADA on page one," said Gary Phelan, a disability law expert. "He seot a message that the

ADA is about opportunity, not pity."
After his ruling Wednesday, Judge
Coffin said he disagreed with the PGA Tour's argument that the case was not about Casey Martin but was about the broad policy of fairness in golf.

The judge also said be determined that because carts are allowed on the Senior PGA Tour and during early, rounds of the national qualifying school for the PGA Tour, Martin's request for a cart was not unreasonable.

Casey Martin vs. PGA Tour Inc. is the first case in which a professional athlete has invoked the Americans With Disabilities Act to play competitive

Martin's journey to federal court began last year, when the Tour denied his request to drive a cart on the Hooters Tour, a mini-tour primarily in the Southeast. He dropped out after being unable to use a cart. When be asked the PGA Tour for permission to use a cart in the final qualifying round of the Nike Tour, he was denied again. After Judge Coffin issued his preliminary injunction, the PGA Tour allowed Martin and any other golfer to use a cart in its qualifying tournament. Martin did not qualify for the PGA Tour but did make the Nike Tour. He won the Lakeland (Florida) Classic in December, the first Nike Tour evect of the season. The next evect in which Martin could compete is the Texas Open, the first week in March.

For the Americans With Disabilities Act to be applicable in Martin's case, his lawyers, William Wiswall and Martha Walters, had to prove that the competitive area of a golf course was a public space and/or that Martin was an employee of the PGA Tour. Judge Coffin settled that two weeks ago when he ruled against the PGA Tour's request for dismissal of Martin's suit on grounds that the golf course was an. athletic playing field open only to the players. In that ruling, Judge Coffinstated the entire golf course was public and therefore subject to the rules of the

Martin's lawyers then had to show that his use of a golf cart would not fundamentally alter the nature of the

They argued that the game came down to swinging the club and putting the ball in the hole. The PGA Tour countered that walking 18 holes of golf was a key part of the challenge of highlevel tournament play.

Decision Puts the Sport On an Uncharted Course

By Clifton Brown New York Times Service

Golf has only begun to feel the ramifications of Casey Martin's victory in

When Martin competes in the Nike Greater Austin Open next month in Texas, it will surely be the mostwatched, most-covered, and mosttalked-about Nike Tour event in history. Meanwhile, golfers on both the PGA Tour and the Nike Tour, whether they supported Martin in his lawsuit or not, will have to deal with whatever changes Martin's victory brings.

While many things remained uncertain, several things were clear. Martin will now compete on the Nike Tour with a cart, and many people who have watched him play believe he has the talent to qualify for the PGA Tour next season. The top 15 money winners on the Nilsa Tour his top 15 money winners of 15 money winners the Nike Tour this year automatically qualify for next year's rour. And three victories on the Nike Tour mean an automatic PGA Tonr card for next

Meanwhile, many questions re-mained. Will other golfers with medical problems now challenge the PGA Tour for the right to use a cart? Will the PGA Tour eventually come to the conctusion that it no longer pays to fight Martin and drop its plans to appeal, or will the tour continue to battle Martin in the courts. even if the process takes several years? If Martin is successful on the Nike Tour, will some of bis competitors feel that he has an unfair advantage?

Questions like that will now be debated, forcing the people who run golf to make some tough decisions. And while Martin is not on the PGA Tour yet, he hinted that be may compete in a PGA event this year if a sponsor offers him an exemption.

"I'm not going to seek any exemp-tions, but if somebody comes to me to play, I'd be hard-pressed to say no," said Martin. "I baven't quite decided." Several tour players apparently have

decided to disagree with the decision. Speaking from Honolulu, where the Hawaiian Open starts Thursday, Paul Azinger, whose career was interrupted. Azinger, whose career was interrupted for more than a year by cancer, told The Associated Press that he might have continued playing on the PGA Tour, even while undergoing chemotherapy, had be been permitted to use a golf cart.

"I don't want to say I definitely could bave played if I had a cart, but I probably would have considered playing.

would have considered playing, even during chemo," Azinger said.

While Azinger agreed it was an individual case and that most were sympathetic to Martin's situation, he cited other players with injuries or disabilities and added: "But why would it apply only to Casey Martin? Why not Jose Maria Olazabal, or me, or Ben Hogan or Bill Glasson or a whole number of other

people?
"Why is it for only one guy? If a guy really needs a cart to get around, then there are a lot of other guys that could use a golf cart as well."

Fred Couples, who has a chronically sore back, said that Martin will gain a

clear advantage by using a cart.
"I don't understand how anyone can say, in golf, you don't expend any energy playing it." Couples said. "That's the biggest farce in the world. That's the only thing that irritates me about this. It's much easier to play golf riding a cart." Mike Donald, a former touring pro

wbo played in eight PGA Tour events last year, also believes the ruling will create an "uneven playing field."
"It's hard for me to imagine that on a

hot summer day in Memphis, when you have to play 36 holes in a day, that fatigue isn't going to be a factor." Don-"And what about playing against someone who's able to get in position to

decide what shot they want a lot faster than you are? I was fined \$1,000 last year for taking 47 seconds on an iron shot. 'Meanwhile, someone in a cart is already sizing up the shot and has two to

three minutes.

MEBOAR D

PEANER





Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 12

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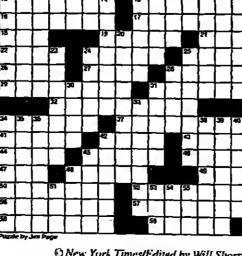
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O New York Times/Edited by Will Short:

JOHANNESBURG - The first

Test Delayed

SPORTS

Judging by the results in the contests between the division leaders in the division leaders in the West, the Indiana Pacers are well ahead of the Miami Heat.

The Associated Press

Indiana Proved to 16-9 on the road, the best in the Eastern Conference.

Magic 96, Timberwolves 89

Orlando overcame the distraction of rumors regarding a trade of Penny Hardaway to straight.

well ahead of the Miami Heat, and the Seattle SuperSonics are not much better than the San Antonio Spurs.

San Antonio Spurs.

Sonics 106, Spurs 108 In traction of rumors regarding a traction of rumors. Advices to the solet side

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Sonics Edge San Antonio Lust Allow In Battle for the West

Ifer a Cart Pacers Show Strength in East Division, Beating Heat

14-foot (4.5-meter) shot with

NBA ROUNDUP

1.9 seconds left to complete a late comeback hy Seattle as the Sonics beat the Spurs.

deficit in the final eight minutes and won on Baker's shot over the 7-foot (2.13shot over an extension.

make every move so I came he stuck with me. So I came about Cases he stuck with the middle and got a shot I felt comfortable with. The fact that it went in was just a blessing from God."

remode of the desired of the 24 points, Detter Schrempf Baker led the Sonics with for the bear Alarite requests, had 21 and Gary Payton 20. "Seattle is the best team in Print Tour have the league," said the Spurs'

coach, Gregg Popovich, win at the buzzer, but Vernon Maxwell's 3-pointer banked off the rim and missed. been together a long time. But off the rim and missed. we'll get better."

with 26 points and Rohinson pointers down the stretch to had 20 points.

Pacers 110, Heat 101 In straight triumph under Coach. Alvin Gentry. 30 points, and Indiana built a and Jerry 22-point lead in the third peri- with 21 points and Jerry Stackhouse scored 16. Glenn by Miami, The Pacers, who Robinson scored 26 and Ray lead the Central Division. Allen added 24 for the viswon for the ninth time in 10 iting Bucks. games and broke a four-game

San Antonio, Vin Baker hit a trade between the Magic. Toronto and New Jersey. He said he expected a deal to be concluded as soon as Thurs-

day.
"I really don't want to play
in New Jersey," he said. "I don't want to go somewhere where I don't want to be."

Nick Anderson scored a season-high 28 points and made 11 rebounds. made 11 rebounds. Hardaway, the 6-foot-7 All-After the declaration of the dec a calf muscle in Tuesday night's loss at Indiana.

Bulls 92, Hornets 90 Michael Jordan scored 29 points, including a spectacular reverse lay-up with 35 seconds left in Charlone.

Scottie Pippen added 23 points for the Bulls, who won the season series, 3-1.

Pistons 95, Bucks 83 Joe Tim Duncan led the Spnrs Dumars hit two of his four 3help Detroit to its second Pacers 110, Neat 101 In straight triumph under its new

> Grant Hill led the Pistons Lakers 105, Warriors 99

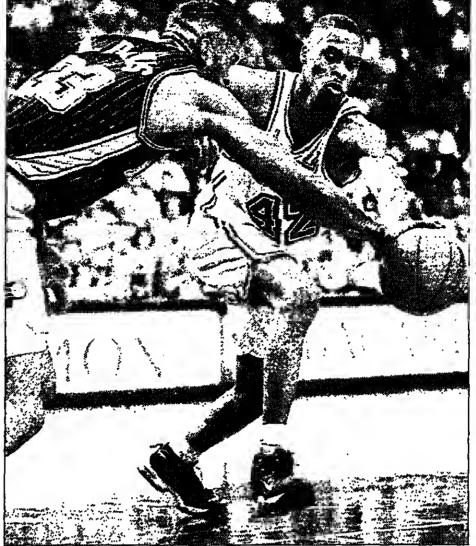
winning streak by the Heat. Shaquille O'Neal overcame an upset stomach to score 33

76ers 91, Mavericks 90 In Hardaway's name was be- Philadelphia, Allen Iverson ing discussed in a three-team capped his 16-point fourth quarter with the game-win-ning 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left as the 76ers came hack from a 14-point, fourth quarter deficit and ended a seven-game losing streak.

Michael Finley made a umper at the huzzer for Dallas, but a referce annulled the basket despite the protests of Finley and his coach, Don

Wizards 110, Clippers 104 In Los Angeles, Rod Strick-land had 31 points and 13 assists and Calbert Cheaney scored 22 of his 28 points in the first half as Washington handed the Clippers their 14th loss in 16 games.

The Clippers got a careerhigh 34 points from Rodney Rogers, 28 points from Lamond Murray and 22 rebounds from Lorenzen Wright,



The Pacers' Antonio Davis, left, knocking a pass away from the Heat's P.J. Brown.

NBA Players Split on Marijuana Ban

By Scott Soshnick Bloomberg News

NEW YORK - Some of the National Basketball Association's biggest stars favor mandatory testing of players for marijuana, hreaking ranks with the play-

The NBA is the only one of the four major North American professional sports leagnes that does not list marijuana as a banned substance.

The policy, in effect since 1984, has "This was a big game for points and grab 10 rebounds come under scrutiny recently because my guys," Indiana's coach, all in the final three quarture ters.

Wanted this win badly, I'm Nick Van Exel bad 19 ah Rider bave been arrested on come under scrutiny recently because pretty pleased with my team points and 14 assists and Rick marijuana charges.

'We should be tested," said David Robinson, All Star center of the San Antonio Spurs, "It's a no-brainer."

Billy Hunter, executive director of the National Basketball Players Association, resists testing, saying the entire membership should not be investigated because of the transgressions of a few.

The verbal sparring between the league and union comes as they prepare for a possible reopening of the collective

bargaining agreement after the season.
The NBA's drug policy states that players can be disciplined for using or selling heroine or cocaine. Users of marijuana can be disciplined by the league only if the use results in a con-

Grant Hill of the Detroit Pistons also does not understand Hunter's stance. "li's crazy," he said. "It doesn't make any sense. If it's illegal, it's illegal."

Hunter said the opposition represents only a small percentage of the league's 400-or-so players. 'If we differ, we'll differ inside,' he said. 'When we come out, we'll be unified.'

Speaking after a meeting of the players union on Saturday in New York, site of the All-Star game, Hunter said a majority of those attending opposed testing for marijuana. He also rejected an October New York

Times report that said 70 percent of play-

ers use marijuana, hut he acknowledged that there was an "image problem."

After Slow Start, Carolina Prevails

lina held Virginia to 12 points the visiting Huskies. in the second half of a 60-45 victory. It was the Cavaliers' fourth loss this season to a No.

'It was just one of those things where in the second half, we just came together

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

defensively," said Antawn ward, who ontscored Virginia by one point in the second half Wednesday night.

"In the first half, we were half Volunteers 115-6, 5-6).

missing easy shots and they were hitting everything," said Jamison, who finished with 19 points and 14 re-bounds. "We clamped down defensively at the end of the half, then played Carolina hasketball offensively and defensively after that.

That meant a sixth straight loss for the Cavaliers (10-14, son Tide (10-14, 2-9). 2-9 Atlantic Coast Conference), who had the home crowd primed for an upset as Curtis Staples hit six 3-pointers early in the game and with 3:15 left in the first half Virginia led, 31-17.

"Things were going fine," Staples said. "But the second half was totally different. They were on me the whole time."

Shammond Williams, wbo scored a career-high 42 points sa Louis Bullock scored 22 Sunday in North Carolina's points for the Wolverines (18double-overtime victory over Georgia Tecb, played just four minutes after having a disagreement with his coach, Bill Guthridge.

Williams said he got upset agreed with Guthridge's decision to bench him for the rest of the game.

No. 16 West Virginia 80, No. Connecticut 62 Senior guard Greg Jones scored 18 points in his first career start as the Mountaineers (20-4,

The Associated Press cut (21-4, 10-3). Richard Top-ranked North Caro-Hamilton had 19 points for

No. 7 Kentucky 80, Tennes see 74 Scott Padgett, scoreless in the first half, scored Kentucky's first eight points of the second half and made a

3-pointer late in the game as the Wildcars (22-3, 10-1 Southeastern Conference) beat the Volunteers. Nazr Mohammed had 21 points and 16 rebounds for Kentucky, while Jamison, the Tar Heels for- Padgett finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Tony Harris and C. J. Black each scored 19 points for the vis-

> No. 15 South Carolina 74, Alabama 63 Herbert Lee Davis scored 16 points and Ryan Stack added 15 points and 11 rebounds as the Gamecocks (18-4, 8-3 Southeastern Conference) won their 20th straight home game. Brian Williams scored 19 points in the second half for the Crim-

> No. 18 Mississippi 87, Vanderbilt 76 Keith Carter bad 17 points and Ansu Sesay 14 for the Rebels (16-5, 7-4 Southeastero Conference, who extended their schoolrecord home winning streak to 18 games by hitting a season-high 11 3-pointers. Drew Maddux had 18 points for the Commodores (15-9, 4-7).

No. 21 Michigan 76, Ohio St. 7, 8-4 Big Ten), who learned earlier in the day that they would be without their starting forward Maceo Baston for two weeks after he suffered a foot injury. Michael Redd, a freshabout something and that be man, had 22 points for the visiting Buckeyes (7-16, 0-10).

No. 24 Maryland 78, North Carolina St. 63 Rodney Elliott scored 19 points as the Terrapins (15-7, 8-4 Atlantic Coasi Conference) improved to 11-1 at home. Kenny Inge had 12 points and 14 rebounds 10-4) moved into contention to lead the Wolfpack [12-11, for first place in the Big East 3-9), which committed a sea-6, tied with St. John's and a son-high 24 turnovers, double half-game behind Connecti- the team's average.

ceivers coach to quarterbacks coach. Names Robert Ford receivers coach, and Rand

SEATTLE-Signed WR James McKnight to

SCOREBOARD

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on 10-163-521, Jackson 6-124-419. Re-Iverson 10-16 3-5 27, Jackson 6-12 4-4 19. Re-beauds—Dallas 48 (Green 11), Philadelphia 51 (Colfenon 13), Assists—Dafas 16 (Finley, Recves 4). Philadelphia 22 (Iverson 6). Indiana 29 29 23 29—110 Milana 26 16 26 33—101 I: Miller 8-16 10-10 30, A.Davis 7-11 5-6 19:

I: Miller B-16 10-10 30, A.Davis 7-11 5-5 19; M: Hardway 11-21 4-32; Mouming 7-137-10 21. Robounds—Indiana 37 (D.Davis, Smits 6). Miami 47 (Mauming 15). Assists—Indiana 20 Clacison 6), Miami 19 (Majerte 5). Chicago 39 21 15 26— 92 Charlotte 20 22 29 28— 90 C. Pice 9-21 9-11 29, Wesley 7-14 2-3 18, Rabounds—Chicago 44 (Rodman 11), Charlotte 48 (Gelger 11). Assists—Chicago 24 (Mason, Rodman 6). Charlotte 15 (Mason, Rodman 6). Charlotte 15 (Mason, Rodman 6).

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LMurray 11-18 5-6 28. Rebounds—Washington 58 (Davis 13), LA. Clippers 48 (Wright 22), Assists—Washington 16 (Strickland 13), LA. Clippers 20 (Martin

0-0 19. Reboonds—Golden State 54 (Vaught 12), Lakers 58 (O'Neol 10), Assists—Golder State 22 (Delk 7), Lakers 27 (Van Exel 14). MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

Michigan 76, Ohio St. 68 Maryland 78, N.C. State 63

EUROLEAGUE Paris St Germain 70, Pau-Orthez, France, 51 GROUP F Limogés, France. 77, PAOK Scientika 75

CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND VS. AUSTRALIA THIRD ONE DAY MATCH THURISDAY IN MAPIER, NEW ZEALAND rollo: 236 oil out in 48.4 overs Zegignd: 240-3 in 48.2 overs New Zealand won by seven wickets ods lour-match series 2-1.

SOCCER AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

rking Foso 2 Algeria 1 4. Burkina Faso 3: Algeria 0.

STANDINGS: Togo 0: Tunisia 0. Ghana 3 points: Congo 3; GROUP C STANDING B: Ivory Coast 4 points: South

England O. Chile 2 TALLAN FIRST DIVE

AC Mitan & Udinese 0

STANDENGS: Juventus 45 points; Inter Milan 41; Lazio, Udinese 38; Fiorentino, Par-

ma. Samodoria 34: AS Roma 32: AC Milan 28:

Merida O Barcelona 3

Barcelona won 5-0 on aggregate

Departivo Corung O. Alaves O Alaves won 3-1 on aggregate. **DUTCH FIRST DIVISION**

STANDINGS: Ajax Amsferdam 58 points: PSV Eindhoven 46: Heorenveen Vitesse Amhem, Feyonogra 38: Willem (f Tilburg 33: Fartung Siftard 30: Sparta Rotterdom 27: Ro-do JC Kerkrade 26: Twente Enschede, NAC Bredg, NEC Nijmegen 25; Utrecht 24; Graaf-schap Doelinchem, MVV Maastricht 21;

TRANSITIONS BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE

Johnson, LAP Steve Nines, LAP Frey Monte, RHP Jeromy Power, RHP Mere Thorman, RHP Javier Vozquez. C Bob Henley, INF Driando Cobrera, INF Jose Fernandez and OF Terry Jones on 1-year contract.

NEW YORK—Agreed to teams with 28 Ralph Milliard on 1-year contract.

New York—Agreed to teams with 28 Ralph Milliard on 1-year contract.

RHP Ricky Bottolico on 1-year contract RASKETBALL

MATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

ITLANTA—Placed G Eldridge Recusiver on

Ittalian Signed G Drew Borry for remain-

der of season.

CLEVELAND—Signed G Corl Thomas to second 10-day contract.

PORTLAND—Suspended G Isolah Rider 1

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEA ARIZONA-Agreed to letrns with OT Eric wann on 5-year contract. ATLANTA—Re-signed P Don Stryzinski to 3-

non Fortin, WR Michael Haynes and DE

HECK I'LL COME

TAMPA RAY.—Signed FB Kontroy Barber, OE israel Hearry, FB Steve Lee, OL Karneth McDaniel and WR Geroy Simon to 2-year NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
CALGARY—Assigned F Todd Hivshko, F
Hand Domesichelli, G Tylor Moss and 11 De-nis Gouritier in Saint John, ANL, and 11 Kevin
Dahi to Chicago, IHL

COLLEGE SOUTH ALABAMA—Promoted interim bas-ketball coach Bob Weltlich to basketball coach and signed him to four-year contract.

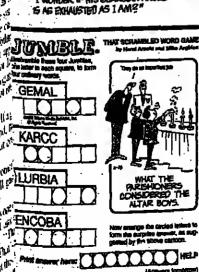
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OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

Canada to Face U.S.

ICE HOCKEY The United States and Canada will meet in the gold medal women's ice hockey game. Canada, which has beaten the

United States four times since 1990 in the Women's World Championship, defeated Finland 4-2 Thursday to guarantee both teams a spot in cext week's final.

Only six teams are playing as women's hockey makes its Olympic debut and the top two finishers in the preliminary round go

directly to the gold medal game.
''Canada will win,'' said Rauno
Korpi, the Finland coach. "The U.S. has one advantage, which we had: They will start the game as underdogs." Therese Brisson's two goals led Canada to its victory. The United States was keyed to a 10-0 win over Japan by Katie

King's three goals.

Canada and the United States also meet Saturday in the last day of preliminary games

Finland and China, who also play each other Saturday, will play next week for the bronze, China beat Sweden, 3-1, Thursday.

Norwegian Wins Gold

SPEED SKATING Aadne Sondral of Norway set a new world record as he won the Olympic 1,500 me-

ters on Thursday,
Sondral shaved 1.01 seconds
from Dutchman Rintje Ritsma's
world mark as he sped to his first big title.

Ritsma clocked one minote 48.88 seconds in the Dutch city of Heerenveen in December but Soodral reduced it to 1:47.87 on the Nagano ice.

Victory was sweet revenge for the outspoken Sondral, for years in the shadow of great compatriot Johann Olav Koss, then Ritsma and Ids Postma, also Dutch.

Postma and Ritsma had to be content with silver and bronze respectively.

"I've been called everything a loser, the man who always comes second, a Dooald Duck - but today, I'm proud of myself," Son-dral said.

Canadians Unbeaten

CURLING Canada (6-0), which has woo four of the last five world championships, remained the only undefeated men's team by bearing Switzerland 8-3 and Sweden 6-3. In other matches, Norway edged Switzerland 5-4 and Germany beat

Canada (5-1) also gained a first-place tie in the women's tournament by beating Sweden (5-1) by 7-5. Britain (4-2) assured isself of a place in Saturday's semifinals by beating Germany (1-5) 6-5, and Denmark (4-2) made certain it would move on by beating Japan (2-4) by 6-4. (AP)



Andy Kapp leading Germany to a curling victory over Britain.

Kulik Floats on Gossamer Wings

After Short Program, Russian Leads but Gold Medal Is No Cinch

By Jere Longman New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan - Through four hnurs of clean, if tense and careful, skating in the men's short program Thursday, absolutely nothing was decided. The favorites did oot make mistakes. They did oot unravel the expected order of finish. And they did not make it any easier for the judges to decide who

should win the Olympic gold medal.

llya Kulik of Russia finished first, Elvis Stojko of Canada second and Todd Eldredge of the United States third. Bot oone received a majority of first-place votes from the nine judges. The skater whn delivered the most

inspired program — 17-year-old Alexi Yagudin of Russia — finished fourth. "It's like ice dancing," complained Alexei Mishin, who coaches Yagudin. "They decide before and they oever go away from what they decided."

The top three contenders advanced to Saturday's loog program displaying their individual strengths and weaknesses. Essentially, Kulik, Stojko and Eldredge are even. The 4½-minute long program will count for two-thirds of the scoring. If any of these three skaters win the long program, they will also win the gold medal. Nothing is certain except that there will be a new champion.

Alexi Urmanov of Russia is suffering from a groin injury and is not trying to retain his side. Who will be his successor? There are only hints, no guarantees.
"I don't think any messages were

sent," said Richard Callaghan, who coaches Eldredge. "I think it's open." If the judges sent any message, it was that they prefer Kulik's artistry. He received 5.8s and 5.9s for presentation Thursday. And because the artistic mark

He delivered a performance as gossamer as the wings nn the sleeves of his costume. He was unhurried and refined

FIGURE SKATING

and he landed his jumps with softness and flow. But he received only four first-place votes, which means he is not a decisive favorite for a gold medal.

Kulik has lacked stamina in the past and has been known to weaken in the free skate. Also, these are his first Olympic Games. No man since Dick Button in 1948 has woo the Olympics on his first try.

"It was nothing special, but it was O.K.," Kulik said of his short program. "I have a good chance to win a gold medal. I'm going for it. History is yes-terday. Tomorrow is, whn knows?" Kulik will have the disadvantage of

skating first among the contenders. But if Kulik has the artistic edge, Stojko has the technical advantage. Kulik has a quadruple jump; Stojko can land his quadruple toe in combination with a triple toe. He won a silver medal in 1994; to win a gold in 1998, be will need to boost his technical mark as high as possible with a quad and eight triple jumps in a powerful, determined free skate.

'I don't think it's Ilya's to lose," said Stojko. "It's up for grabs right now. Whoever deserves it is going to win it."

"It is logical that a three-time world champion should win the gold medal," said Philippe Candeloro of France, the 1994 silver medalist who finished fifth in the short program, "Elvis is the only one who can do the quad and all the triple jumps. But if you do a quad and

is the tiebreaker in the long program, if nothing else, it would "Still, the short, the Kulik skates cleanly, he is likely to stocky Stojko received marks as low as stocky Stojko received marks as low as 5.6 and 5.7 for artistry. The Canadian judge, Sally Rehorick, awarded him a

But she is also the person who provided him with the Japanese drum music for his short program, and many wonder whether her presence on the panel is a conflict of interest.

"Nobody else will fight for it like Elvis will," said Robin Cousins, the 1980 Olympic champion from Britain.

The reason he fights is he's aware he

The reason he fights is he's aware he has shortcomings."
Eldredge, the 1996 world championis the only contender who has never landed a quad in competition. And, skating after Kulik in the final group on Saturday, he is not likely to attempt one. He is brilliant spinner and a consistent, reliable skater. The quad, he caid is cost a priority.

said, is oot a priority.
"I don't think it's that big a deal,"
Eldredge said. "The quad takes eighttenths of a second and you still have 4 minotes, 40 seconds left. That's a lot of time for other things.

Eldredge skated an unhlemished, if mengaging, short program to "Les Miserables."

He didn't self-destruct like teammate Michael Weiss, who fell on his com-bination jump and finished 11th. And he will likely play it safe on Saturday, apparently satisfied to win a medal,

even if it is not a gold medal.
"I think everything I do is wellrounded," said Eldredge, who has added more ambitious footwork to his
long program. "I doo't hear everyone say I'm a great jumper. I don't hear people say I'm artistic. They say both together in the same breath. I hope on Saturday that makes the difference."

Sport With Touch of Soap Opera? That's Ice Dancing

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

Elvis Stojko of Canada performing his short program on Thursday.

TAGANO, Japan — Pasha Grishnk of Russia has arrived at the Winter Olympics, and judging from her costume, she appears to be going to the Crusades in a bikini.

Off the ice she wears a fur coat, which may or may not be fake. Her earrings hang like chandeliers. And after one day, she sorely missed ber cocker span-

At the 1997 world championships, Grishuk wanted Vanya to be included in her official accreditation picture. This the spaniel remained behind as Grishuk and her partner, Yevgeni Platov, tried to become the first couple to repeat as Olympic ice dancing champions.
"I bought him a football jacket,"

Grishuk said of her dog. "He likes to play soccer. We call him Pele." Ice dancing may be the most flam-boyantly entertaining of the four figure-skating disciplines, and it is has wide-

spread popularity and wondrous skaters. But it also has almost zero credibility as a sport. With the compulsory waltz and Ar-

gentine tango dances scheduled for Friday, ice dancing finds itself mired in controversies over bloc voting by the judges, confusion over the rules, power plays by Russian coaches who live in the United States, bickering between skaters from Russia and Canada and blade-slashing incidents involving the top two Russian couples.

Shae-Lynn Bourne of Canada said she did not believe that all the judges knew the rules. Anjelika Krylova of Russia said she thought the recent European championships were rigged in favor of Grishuk and Platov.

Ottavio Cinquanta of Italy, the president of the International Skating Union, said he was concerned that the skaters seemed to be placed in the same order of finish at competition after competitioo. "Ice dancing is too predictable," Cinquanta said. "A couple that is Nn. 1

in October is No. 1 in February.

month, jodges were warned against hloc believe everyone is clear on them." voting, unwarranted perfect scores of 6, and deliberate marking down of skaters. The same warning was expected to be given before the compulsory dances Fri-

'I wish the sport would be a sport and get rid of all the junk on the side," said Isabelle Duchesnay, a French Canadian who won a silver medal for France with her brother, Paul, at the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France. "Ice dancing is a noble sport, but it's starting to lose some nobility."

Ice dancing consists of two compulsory dances, an original dance and a free e. To differentiate from pairs skating, ice dancing does not allow the man to lift his partner above his shoulders, and the couples cannot be separated more than five times or for more than five seconds at a time. No kneeling oo the ice is allowed, or pulling and pushing by the leg, and both partners must have one foot on the ground at all times, except during permitted lifts.

The problem is that the rules are often

broken. Many people consider ice dancing more of an art form, or a soap opera, than true sport.

Once it got rave reviews. Jayne Tor-vill and Christopher Dean of Britain gave one of the most smoldering, mesmerizing performances in figure-skating history when they skated to Ravel's "Bolero" at the 1984 Winter Games in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Now, like this season's original dance, many

believe the sport is nothing but jive.
"It's a sport, but it's not legitimate." said Tamara Moskvina, coach of the Olympic pairs champions from Russia, Artur Dmitriev and Oksana Kazakova. "The objective qualities are very dif-ficult to find and judge."

Even footwork seems to be missing from the skating these days,

"There's no dance in dance," said Tracy Wilson of Canada, who won a bronze medal in ice dancing at the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary.

The judges say they want footwork, said Bourne of Canada, but when it At the European championships last comes to knowing the rules "I don't

"The policy that we're taking on these games is to be hands-off unless people

games is in the manus-on unless people are bothered by it." said Donna Carter, a spokeswoman for the Olympic committee. "We don't like what they're doing,

The Olympics is one of the scalping

profession's most potentially lucrative

events because the sellers are frequently

but we're not looking to start trouble.

At the epicenter of ice dancing are Grishuk, 25, and Platov, 30, the fourtime world champions and defending Olympic champions. They have won 21 consecutive competitions the past four years and are superior to others in terms

of speed, technical ability and unison. And she is outrageously engaging. Her hair is a platinum color found nowhere in nature. Her first name formerly was Oksana, but she changed it so as not to be confused with that other Olympic champion, Oksana Baiul. 'O.K., ler's talk," Grishuk said after

practice Thursday. She wanted to talk about the movie she could not make with Robert DeNiro because of the Olympics. She wanted to talk about her cocker spaniel. She wanted to talk about her greatness and bow it is as natural as "milk from cows." Bot she did oot want to talk about the incideot last summer when Nicole Bobek slapped her in an ar-

gument over a boyfriend. "Everything will be in my book,"
Grishuk said, giving the working title as
"Pasha With Love." "All my friends say it will be the most interesting book in figure skating because so many exciting things happen to me.

She can devote several chapters to her coaches, present and past, in skating's version of "War and Peace."

The International Skating Union's official media guide says that Grisbuk left ber former coach Natalia Dubova in 1992 after Grishuk had an affair with another of Dubova's skaters and was asked to leave. Natalia Linichuk has threatened a lawsuit, saying that Grishuk and Platov owe her money from training in recent seasons in Wilmington, Delaware.

Grishuk said she left Dubova of her own accord and that she left Linicbuk because she and Platov were not receiving ennugh personal attention. Grishuk and Platov now train in Massachusetts with Tatiana Tarasova. Grishuk's former coaches oow tutor ber main rivals. Dubova coaches the Canadians, Bourne and Victor Kraatz, in Lake Placid, New York, and Linichuk

coaches Krylova and Oleg Ovsyan-nikov of Russia, in Delaware. This power triangle is the heart of all

the drama and intrigue in ice dancing. At last month's European championships in Milan, Krylova slashed Grisbuk on her forearm with her skate blade one day and sliced Platov's costume behind the knee another time. Some observers thought the couples might have been playing a high stakes game of chicken.

"I think maybe because we are winning so many times, they are trying to kill us," Platov said at the European championships, apparently joking.

Asked if he thought the incidents were intentional, Platov said Thursday, "I'd like to believe not." Krylova, who apologized to Grishuk

and Platov in Milan, said here that the slashings were accidental. "Nobody wants to kill anybody," she said. She did add, however, that she believed that Grishuk and Platov's victory and her own second-place finish at the European championships had "already been decided" before the competition began.

The Canadian skating federation has also accused the Russian, French and Italian judges of deal-making to prop up their own skaters.

"I'm glad these things are coming out and not hidden," Bourne said. Maybe things will change."

Grishuk said that those who complain

about the judging are "weak."
Tarasova, Grishuk's coach, snipped,

'It is my opinion the Canadians this

year are not ready for competition." Enmity between Grishuk and Platov and Bourne and Kraatz came into the open at the Champion Series Final, an Olympic preview held in December in Munich. After the original dance, Grishuk's aunt, Zoya Kujawsky, stood up at a news conference and told the Canadians they weren't talented enough for first or second place.
"I was shocked," Bourne said.

Grisbuk later said she could learn Bourne and Kraatz's Riverdance routine in a single day. "Wby don't they try," Kraatz buffed. OLYMPIC SCHEDULE ..

ALPINE SICINO, Helcobe Men: Downhill, 10:15
a.m. Combined (Downhill), 2 p.m.
cunsuses, Kanubano — Women: United States vs.
Japan, 9 a.m. Denmark vs. Norway, 9 a.m.; Siftin vs.
Sweden, 9 a.m.; Canoda vs. Germano. 9 a.m. Sweden 9 a.m. Canoda vs. Gurmony, 9 a.m. Men: Arbeio vs. United States, 2 p.m.; Japan vs. Germony, p.m.; Sweden vs. Switzerland, 2 p.m.; Noway, p.m.; Sweden vs. Switzerland, 2 p.m.; Noway, Conodo: 2 p.m.; Men and Women: Tie break, if nec

NOTE ! P.M. STATES IN PROPERTY !- Limited States vs. Sweden. 245 p.m.: Finland vs. Czach Republic, 245 p.m.: Conada vs. Belatus. 645 p.m.: Kazaliston vs. Russia. 645 p.m.: Kazaliston vs. Russia. 645 p.m.: Kazaliston vs. Russia. 645 p.m.: Holland P.M.: M. Hollan

9-30 c.m.
sersementatined_Nugano—Women: 500 meters.
first round, 4-30 p.m.
sattementat; pres. 1-4
ALPTies sattement, Hokubo— Men: Super G, B-45
c.m.: Women: Downfull, 10:15 c.m.
soustalist, fizano—Two-Man; 3 p.m.
croose objective satisfied, Hokubo— Men:
1-Sion free, 9 c.m.

breck, if necessory, 9 G.m.; Women: semifinal 2 p.m.; Men: semifinal 6 p.m.

p.m.

BOR NOCKEY/Nagano—Bien: Belture vs. United
Stotes, 2:45 p.m.; Sweden vs. Canada, 6:45 p.m. Woreen: Japan vs. Sweden, Noon; Finkand vs. China, 4
p.m.; Canada vs. United States, 8 p.m.
NOSIDIC COMMUNICIPAL Haluba—15km, 1 p.m.

BPERDSKATINA, Nagano— Women: 500 meters,
second mind. 4:20 a.m.

Then he proceeded to rip the Russians saying they choose the "same, sad, slow" music each year, and that only the expressions on their faces changed.
'You just have to look very sad,'

Boh Horen, an American judge who is the Olympic alternate for ice dancing, said, "The judges know the rules, but, as in all forms of skating, sometimes people interpret rules differently." And Horen conceded that the sport had problems.

"Jodges get set in their thinking and

aren't always as open-minded as they should be," Horen said.

Morry Stillwell, president of the United States Figure Skating Associatioo who is also a dance judge, joked that he already knew who the top five Olympic finishers would be. Whether the medalists would deserve their scores was another thing.

"The way ice dancing is today," Stillwell said, "I haven't the faintest idea what's going on."

On Scalpers' Row, Business Is Booming

NAGANO, Japan — They have come from the United States, Sweden and England in compete at the Winter Olympics, yet they could not march in the opening ceremonies, win medals or stay in the athletes' village.

The group of about 100 brokers representing at least six countries have turned a block-long area of Nagano into scenes much like the prelude of a Chicagn Bulls game. "Who needs a pair?" they shout.

They're Olympic ticket scalpers.

Others, more enterprising, awk-wardly chant "chiketto," the Japanese word for tickets, in New York, British and Scandinavian accents. While spending thousands of dollars and traveling as much as 26 hours to get to the Olympics seems like a tough way to make a living, some scalpers said they

have turned profits of at least \$15,000 at the past three Olympics.

The streak looks like it will contince in Nagann. Scalpers are getting more than seveo times face value for some sports even before the most profitable events — ice hockey and figure skaring

- reach the final stages. "It's been great, much better than I expected," said Tomas Swensen, an economics major at a Swedish college mittee wants to hear in Nagano's quaint whn began his career at the Olympics at central city.

the 1992 games in Albertville, France,
"The people are friendly over here and

"The people are friendly over here and they are willing to pay."

At a freestyle skiing preliminary round, scalpers were cullecting \$120 for \$16 tickets. They also fared well fur the luge, pocketing \$40 for \$16 tickets.

"I can't believe how good this has been for us here," said Thomas Smythe, a scalper from England. "I was expecting the worst."

I lalike the Olympic Games in 1996 in

Unlike the Olympic Games in 1996 in Atlanta, where authorities pursued scalpers vigorously and arrested them frequently, the police in Nagano do not bother them.

When a scalper did oot realize he had dropped a 5,000-yen bill during a luge ticket sale, a police officer waited until the sale was completed.

Afterward, the officer politely re-

turned the money, about \$40.

"Can you even imagine this happening at Atlanta?" Swensen asked. It is not against the law in Nagano prefecture to sell tickets for more than face value unless the selier bothers or coerces the buyer, the Nagano police said. The Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee said it would not bother the

scalpers, even though shouts of "Whn's selling tickets?" isn't what the com-

able to buy tickets below the listed price through 'connections' with travel agents, sponsors and Olympic commit-At the Metropolitan Hetel in central Nagano, scalpers buy day-of-event tick-ets at half price from a ticket nffice sanctioned by the U.S. Olympic Com-

mittee and then resell them.

Not everyone is making a killing, though. While some scalpers bought hundreds of tickets for the sold-out opening ceremonies, the market price never rose above the face value of about \$160 to \$280, scalpers said. Even Ja-pan's first ice hockey game, against Germany, could not drive the prices over face values of \$80 and \$64. Snme tickets for a hockey game between Italy and Kazakhstan with a face value of \$64

went for about \$3.50. Tickets for the figure skating and hockey finals with a face value of \$240 are expected to sell for at least \$1,000 each, scalpers said.



Larissa Lazutina of Russia finishing the 10-kilometer pursuit to capture her second gold of the games. an eight seconds slower, won the silver.

Dahlie Takes 6th Gold. Men's Winter Record

HAKUBA, Japan - Bjorn-Dahlie of Norway became the first man in win six Winter Olympic gold medals wheo classical cross-country race

Thursday. Larissa Lazutina of Russia became the most successful

athlete so far in Nagano when CROSS-COUNTRY

she won ber second gold medal in two days in the women's 10-kilometer (6.5-mile) pursuit. She also has a silver.
Dahlie, whn fell to 20th in the 30-kilometer race Monday after putting the wrong wax on his skis, got it right this time while skiing in a steady rain at the Snow Harp coarse. Although his skis

finished in 27 minutes, 24,5

from the start Thursday and

the silver. Mika Myllylae of Finland, winner of the 30-kilometer race, won the bronze in 27:40.1.

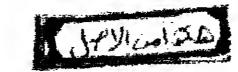
Dahlie won three gold he captured the 10-kilometer medals at Albertville, France, in 1992 and the two he collected at Lillehammer, Nor-, way, in 1994. Lazutina, 32, held off

strong challenge from a fel-low Russian, Olga Danilova, and the Czech skier Katerina Neumannova, adding the 10kilometer freestyle pursuit to the 5-kilometer ritle she won

Tuesday. Lazutina finished in 28 minutes 29.9 seconds. Added to her 5-kilometer time, that gave her a total of 46:06.9. The pursuit is decided on total time in the two races. Neumannova

throughout the race. About slipped frequently, he led one kilometer before the finish, Lazutina pulled away while Danilova, who had won the 15-kilometer race Sunday. Markus Gandler of Austri- passed Neumannova to take

WINTER OLYMPICS



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13. 14

mer Wing

stocky Stocks received marb a land to the stock of the st

But she is also the person of provided him with the Japanes of massic for his snort program and a music for the arrow process and whether whether her presents of intersect panel is a conflict of interest Panel is a commet of natives.

Nobody also will fight for it.

Said Robin County.

Champion from the Party Owner champion from Big The research to fights is he's man

has shortcomings Eldredge, the 1996 world change the only contender who has a landed a quad in competition And a ing after Knick in the final group.

Saturday, he is not likely to the one He is criticall spinner and an existence rotable skaler. The qual said, is not a priority.

"I don't think it's that big a de Eldredge and The quad takes a tenths of a second and you sall be menuies, 40 seconds left. That sale time for other things." Eitherige skaled an unblemide

unengaging, short program to t Miserables.
He didn't self-destruct likeles Michael Wesse, who fell on his bination jump and finished lin & will likely play it safe on Sme apparently latisfied to win a me expent if it is not a gold medal. think everything I do se rounded. Said Eldredge, who had ded more unbackers roomed by hear man man I'm a great tumper. I don't partie at im attude They say Appropriate to the out of break line Samuelas that makes the difference

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE FRIDAY, FEB. 12

Sweiger, Französische Geman Fach Gefanger unter französische Gem SHEARE REATING NITTING IT

day, including — for the third time — the men's downhill.

Mary Mark Sales

Japan - R

WELL AND WATER

medal uben

H-LANGE AND

1004 34h

THE NAME OF THE OWNER, OWNER,

Frank Saarota free and less Alpine events completed. Just before the race was to start, snow began falling at the top of the course and sleet at the bottom. A particular the bottom. at the bottom. A patch of fog elung halfway up. As the morning morning was a specific and sleet

Ski Federation.

Ross Powers, an American taking big air during the men's half-pipe.

earlier in the week, became a urday. It will be the first half Lightning flashed and slushy, watery mess. Outside of a twin hill that includes the first, heavy snow postponed it thunder rumhled across the the Gorkyu Hotel, where women's downhill. ALUNCA STREET AND ALUNCAL THE TANK AND ALUNCAL STREET AND ALUNCAL STRE covered the access road.

one awarded so far in Alpine two training runs that never happened.
"We watched it turn from

little bit, to blizzard to fog to events and speed events. rain," she said. "We could go out there and fish for pol-

Kasper said were many delayed it until Thursday.
more ways the schedule could Normally, any delay

Picabo Street, whose Su- little danger that any Olympie downhill race requires anoth- on Alpine skiing. per-G gold medal is the only event would be canceled. er training run. But that rule "Years ago, when the Inone awarded so far in Alpine" "Of course I'm sure we can be waived in the ternational Olympic Commit-

skiing, waited Thursday for can do it. We have enough Olympics. two training runs that never space," he said. "We could The me even in the second week of the Olympics make some Saturday. clear to cloudy to snowing a changes in the technical

The Alpine competition is recent training. scheduled to stay in Hakuba through next Tuesday, then it course," he said. "I don't that stops the weather and

The American skier A. J. Kitt played down the lack of island surrounded by seas and

dramatically." No Olympics has ended without completion of the Alpine skiing The forecast was for a break schedule, and Kitt does not believe it will happen here.

"Not in the Olympics," said. "If this had been a World Cup, it would have been canceled a long time ago."

Kasper said Olympic organizers have known all along that the Japanese weather could wreak

"Years ago, when the intee decided to hold the games The men have had no in Nagano, we knew about the

downhill training runs since weather statistics in this area," he said.
"Don't forget Japan is an

be damaged.

make the course better. The crowd that unned out Thursday was much smaller and less boisterous than on Sunday, but some Austrian fans were there, chanting their

An American in the small "Go Go Tommy Moe" contingent carried a U.S. flag so drenched you could see

banned substances. But the two bodies have no formal agreement governing the use of marijuana by Olympic skiers or

snowboarders. As a result, the Olympic committee had no power to strip Rebagliati of his

medal because of the positive marijuana test, the panel ruled. Beyond the procedural ruling, Rebagliati's explanation appears medic-

ally plausible. Rônald Alkana, professor of molecular pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, said the active ingredient in marijuana, ealled THC, is stored in fat and can stay in the body for

legal intricacies of agreements between "relatively long periods of time." 'li's reasonable to assume that secondhand smoke could be absorbed," Alkana said Thursday. "It's certainly a

A Golden Ruling: Snowboarder Keeps Medal

Olympic officials had "crushed

tercultural image of snow-

and hair dyed in gold and hlack

leopard spots.
"There is no doping in snow-

boarding, but there is marijuana

because it's a sport for young

people," said Fabien Rohrer of

Switzerland who finished

gies. It's a problem of youth, a

marijuana does not act as a per-

said. "It doesn't make you

The riders stressed that

"It isn't doping." Simmen

problem of society.

formance-enhancer.

faster.

elue," he added.

measuring 120 meters (395 boarding with yellow shades

"I don't think they have a

NAGANO, Japan - The Canadian snowboarder Ross Rebagliati got to keep his gold medal on a legal teehnicality Thursday, ooe day after he was disqualified because he tested positive for marijuana.

Upon being told the news, he pulled the medal from his pocket and placed it around his neck.

Avoiding the thorny question of recreational drug use, the Court for Arbitration of Sport said it ruled on one point and one point only: That the International Olympie Committee, tacking an agreement with the international ski federation on marijuana use, could not strip Rebagliati of his medal.

"It's purely the legal issue. It's not our role to examine the social issues at this stage," Jean-Philippe Rochat, secretary-general of the court, said Thurs-

By Stephen Wilson

The Associated Press

YAMANOUCHI, Japan —

America's first snowboard

medalists barely had time to

catch their breath before they

and other winners were hit with

Ross, many people around the

world expect you to go home

celebrate. How do you feel

The talk was more about

day as shredders defended their

sport and rallied behind the Ca-

A few hours after the com-

petition ended, Rebagliati won

an appeal and reclaimed the gi-

ant slalom gold medal that had

been taken away when he tested

Gold in the rain-soaked

positive for marijuana.

nadian rider Ross Rebaglian.

"After what happened to

tonight and smoke a big joint to feet) long and 15.4 meters wide,

marijuana than medals Thurs- names like McTwist, Alley-

the question:

about that?"

day in upholding Rebagliati's appeal.
"It's a clear message that if the international sports body wants such rules, it has to specify clearly that marijuana is a forbidden substance," Rochat said.

The panel's decision was unanimous and cannot be appealed. Rochat said. The Olympic committee and Rebagliati were notified after the decision, and the committee said it would comply

with the ruling. Rehagliati, 26, of Whistler, British Columbia, won the men's giant slalom Sunday in the first Winter Games at which snowboarding has been a medal sport. As a winner, he submitted a urine sample.

On Wednesday, the International Olympic Committee said it was taking away Rebaglian's medal because the test came back positive for marijuana -

men's and women's half-pipe

events went to Gian Simmen of

Switzerland and Nicola Thost

of Germany. Daniel Franck of

Norway and Stine Brun

Kjeldaas won silver.
The snowboard riders spun

hack and forth down the chute

SNOWBOARDING

with walls 3.5 meters high -

performing a series of skate-

board style maneuvers with

Oop, Backside, Indy Grab,

But most of the attention fo-

His Canadian teammate Mi-

chael Michalchuck beld up a

sign after one of his runs read-

ing: "Ross is the champion. Give him the gold back."

Stale Fish and Mute Grab.

cused on Rebagliati.

17.8 nanograms per milliliter. A nanogram is one billionth of a gram. Rebagliari maintains that he has not

smoked marijuana since April 1997 and musi have inhaled secondhand smoke during a going-away party in Canada late last month. Carol Anne Letheren, head of

Canada's Olympic committee, said the decision was fair and insisted it was not a technicality, though she agreed that the appeals panel was "ruling on rules."

She underscored that her organization's pleasure at the favorable ruling did oot mean that it endorsed illegal The panel's decision hinged on the

the International Olympic Committee and the International Ski Federation. Both the committee and the ski fed-

'had the biggest rush' and that event. Under a heavy down-

eration include marijuana on their lists of

the United States was third.

in my dreams."

and bronze.

Rebellious Newcomers Compete Under a Cloud Franck said that Rebagliati nowhere to win the men's ish the run hut lost valuable event. Under a heavy down-points. "I don't know what pour, he twisted, flipped and happened," Dunn said. "I

spun down the snow trough -didn't even care. "It's pouring, but I feel like his hat flying off during one I'm above the clouds. I just had

he," he added. midair twist — for a two-run total of 85.2 points. the time of my life here. "Everybody should come to the Olympics," Dunn said. "As Franck finished second with 82.4 points. Ross Powers, 18, of far as I'm concerned, if you're "I can'ı believe it." said having the time of your life. Simmen. "I don't know what then that's winning the gold to

I've done. I've never been rid-The competition was accoming like that before. Maybe only panied by an eclectic mix of Those captured the women's music, ranging from rock, reggae, hip hop and grunge.

fourth. "I hope people won't event with 74.6 points. Keldaas say that snowboarders are drug- won the silver in 74.2 and Shan-The tunes included songs by non Dunn, the leader going into Jimi Hendrix. Oasis, Beck, the final run, finished with 72.8 Queen, Blondie, Boh Marley and Jim Morrison.

The men's competition was Dunn, an American from Steamboar Springs, Colorado, missing the sport's superstar, fell out of competition for the Terje Haakonsen of Norway, gold when she lost her balance who boycotted the games in on her last run, sat back and protest of the Olympic estab-Simmen, 20, came out of nearly fell. She recovered to fin-lishment,

Heavy Rain and Snow Keep Alpine Skiers Off Slopes, Again

By Bob Baum

The Associated Press HAKUBA, Japan - Snow, and society with the state of fog, wind and lots of rain forced postponement of two more Olympic ski races Thursday, including — for the third

Happo'one skiing venue.
With IO days left in the even we wister Winter Games, the squeeze is on to get the nine remaining

itation turned to steady rain. "It wouldn't be fair for the

The village of Hakuba, so

conditions," said Gian combined downbill and the Franco Kasper, secretary-general of the International ing runs — all called off ing runs — all called off and giant slalom races.
Thursday — were resched- The forecast was for a

uled for Friday. The men's in the weather Friday. The picturesque after two feet (60 super-G, scheduled for Fri- men's downhill originally was centimeters) of fresh snow day, was pushed back to Sat- to be the opening event of Alpine skiing on Sunday.

Normally, any delay of be altered and that there was more than two days in a

"It's not that difficult of a

also has on one side Siberia. "There's only one barrier that's the Japanese Alps, exactly where we are," he said. As the constant rain fell into the evening, there was concern that the course could

"More than likely, the rain will turn to snow," said the U.S. men's coach, Bill Egan, "and it depends on when it does that how much damage there is. It might actually

hero's name in a familiar cadence: "Her-mann Mai-er."

through it.



A fan sitting in the rain at the downhill skiing finish.

The Russe CLYMPIC SCOREBOARD



MEN'S 10 KM

Allow Norway, 27:24.5.
2. Markus Gendler, Austric, 27:32.5.
3. Mike Mythytee, Finland, 27:40.1.
4. Violinit Snitrov, Razelstan, 27:48.1; 6. Joak
Mae, Estonic, 27:36.0; 7. Erfin; perma, Norway,
27:52.7; 8. Andrew, 28:15.5; 11. Felling,
28:00.7; 9. Sture Siverbarn, Norway, 28:10.6,
10.5 Stylo Fourner, Italy, 28:15.5; 11. Felling,
28:20.7; 9. Sture Siverbarn, Norway, 28:10.6,
10.5 Stylo Fourner, Italy, 28:15.5; 11. Felling,
28:25.2; 13. Jeni (Lorin, Austric,
28:25.2; 13. P. Himyulki (mol., Japan,
28:15.20. Potinick Remy, France, 28:55.2; 22.
3. Septi (Soc.) Switzerland, 28:25.5; 23. Achim
Wickine, Austric, 28:35.2; 23. Achim
Wickine, Austric, 28:36.24. Vincent Vince,
28:37.34.25. Marco Alboresia, Italy, 29:10.1; 23. Principe, Austria, 28:58.6: 22. Vincem vintal:

**LiPaina, 29:01.5: 25. Nikidas Jonsson. Sweden.

*29:04.9: 26. Marros Albarrello, Italy, 29:10.1: 27.

**Shann Muehlegg. Germany. 29:12.3: 28.

*Tobio Moj. Italy, 29:13.8: 29. Managlai Kozzu.

*Jopan, 29:23.1: 30. Ricardos Panavas.

**Lilinumia, 29:24.1: 31. Alexel Prolamorov.

**Grando. 29:24.7: 31. Alexel Prolamorov.

**Shallo. 29:27.3: 32. Patr Michi. Crech Re
**Lilinumia. 29:27.3: 32. Patr Michi. Crech Re-June 11: September 29-27.3: 32. Petr Mich. Crech Re-public 29-28.5: 33. Juan Gufferrez, Spoin. 29-29.0: 34. Katsutsto Ebisawa, Jopan. 29-30.6: 35. Mortin Koukal, Crech Republic. 27-41.5: 36. Mitsuo Heriana. 27-41.4: 36. Mitsuo Horigome, Jopon, 29-44.6; 37. Rout Cite, Estonia, 29-52.3; 38. Rene Som-Lilled House

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CURLING

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1. Ityo Kuifis, Russia, 0.5 fectored placings (CD: 2. Eivis Stojka, Canada, 1.0 (CD); 3. Todd Eldredge, United States, 1.5 (Q); 4. Alexal Yogudin, Russia, 2.0 (Q); 5. Philippa Condelora, France, 2.5 (CI); 6. Steven Country, Aritoin, 3.0 (0); 7. Iven Diney, Avigario, 3.5 (0); 8. Davitry Dustrento, Ukraine, 4.0 (0); 9. Michael Tvilesen, Denmark 45 (Q): 10, Guo

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P. Drutsett (E. Goldmann), (pp). 3, S.-J. Per-dayy (L. Sateras). 3rd Period—4, G.-J. Ben-TITH PLACE

1st Period-1. A.D. Lovole UM. Wirith S. Wheeldon), (pp), 2, J.-S. Yahata (T. Yamanaka), (pp), 3, A.-G. Ressmann (A. Pusching, D. Kath, 2nd Partied—4, J.-A. Sugisawa (T. Yamanaka, 5, Yahata), (pp), 3rd Perted—5, A.-D. Loveic (M. Ufrich), (pp). 6. J.-T. Otomo. Over-firm—None. Shootout—J.-S. Yahata, game-winner, 16th shot. Shots an Goal—J.-6-13-9-2-



United States 5 2 3—10 1st Period—1, U.S.-S. Looney, 2, U.S.-A. Mleczko (S. Merz, E. Brawn), 3, U.S.-S. Whyte (C. Grancio), 4, U.S.-S. Looney (G. Ufon, J. Schmidgoff), (pp), 5, U.S.-A. Mleczko (E. Brown, S. Lsoney), 2nd Period—6, U.S.-K. King (L. Boker, C. Bailey), 7, U.S.-K. King (A. Biahoski, L. Baker), 3rd Period—8, U.S.-L. Baker (C. Grandio), (pp), 9, U.S.-K. äye (T. Moursey, G. Ulleni, (pp.). 10; U.S.-K. King IL. Boker). Shets on God4—J.- 1-7-2—4, U.S.- 19-24-13—56. Godfies—J.-H. Watanabe (19-14),

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The Lincoln Highway

By Herbert Mitgang New York Times Service

S PRINGFIELD, Illinois — A century and a third after his assassination, the 16th president continues to be the subject of new studies in his hometown and the symbol of our better angels in America and the world

In the search for clues to his nature, eloquence and decisions, there are mysteries to this day. Even Lincoln's intimates said they could not courthouses on the old Eighth penetrate his private thoughts. Jodicial Circuit where Lin-His last law partner, William coln practiced. Among the Herndon, who observed him main discoveries: So great more closely than any other man, found that Lincoln spoke skills as a trial and appeals of himself only "with great reluctance and significant re-

This year, fresh word-portraits and analyses are in the works. Old-fashioned digging, as well as electronic research, is expected to shed light on Lincoln's abilities in such areas as why he was the finest writer by far of any presthe hick lawyer of so much dramatic fiction rather than a mander in chief (even though the last rank he held was that of private in a local militia).

the two most exciting projects definitive text for any study of in the field of Lincolniana. his words — will become The first is an examination of available on the Internet. Lincoln's 25-year legal ca- Later, other basic reference reer. The second is the cre- material will be added by the ation of an electronic Lincoln Web site's sponsors, the Ablibrary that will trace the pat-raham Lincoln Association terns of his language and as- and the state's Historic Prepects of his prairie life and his servation Agency.

The electronic project

A year from oow, a complete analysis of Lincoln's coln library - the first of its aw practice from 1836 to kind for any president," 1861 will come out in a com- Schwartz said.

pact disk facsimile set. It will be followed by four analytical volumes in 2003 that will cover about 100 representative cases. Cullom Davis, the director of the Lincoln Legal Papers in Springfield, says his staff has located and annotated an estimated total of 100,000 items that document Lincoln's 6,000 cases — facts not known to most past hi-

ographers.
Many of these cases were unearthed by searching in the coln practiced. Among the was confidence in Lincoln's lawyer that he appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court in some 300 cases. The print and CD-ROM editions will reveal his career in criminal and civil matters of every kind.

Thomas F. Schwartz, the Illinois State Historian and ident; whether he really was curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library here, is enlitigator esteemed by his thusiastic about the electronic peers, and bow he exercised archive that will allow re-his constitutional role of comisting Lincolniana. By this summer, the

speeches and writings that appear in all 10 volumes of The Collected Works of Springfield is the center of Abraham Lincoln" - the

"will serve as a virtual Lin-

New Wave in Korea: A Movie About Sadness

By Joan Dupont International Herald Tribun

ROTTERDAM — are the Venice and Berlin are the Rotterbig ooes. Then there is Rotterdam, Europe's leading small fes-tival, where you catch the most exotic, extreme films from Estonia to Lithuania, from Taiwan to China.

Since last year, when Hong Sang Soo's "The Day a Pig Fell Down the Well" woo the Gold Tiger here, South Korea's young directors are on the map, with provocative films like Jan Sun Woo's "Timeless, Bottomless, Bad Movie" and Byung Young Joo's "The Murmuring," aboot the protest of Korean "comfort women," forced to sexual

slavery by the Japanese.

Park Ki Yong's directorial debut, "Motel Cactus," set in a love hotel in Seoul, won the New Currents award at the 1997 Pusan, South Korea, festival, and is more a commentary on Korean society outside the motel than an erotic caper. In room 407 of Motel Cactus, couples collide. split and reunite, but sex doesn't satisfy and love escapes them. "I wanted to make a movie about sadness," the director said.

"Korean movies are mostly genre driven," explained Paul

Yi, coordinator for the Pusan festival. "They try to look like producer friend agreed to make the movie. He thought it movies from Hong Kong or America. Park Ki Yong is part of a new movement, he has a different sensibility. This is an a film about relationships and communication." independent film about Korea today.

A sby man with a furrowed brow over soulful - and mournful — eyes, Park, 37, dwells on self donbts. "I was nervous and made lots of mistakes. Things didn't always work out as planned," he said with a pained smile.

He insisted that he couldn't have made the film without the help of the veteran Australian cinematographer Christopher Doyle, known for his work with the Taiwanese directors Hou Hsiao-hsien and Edward Yang, Chen Kaige of China, and Wong Kar-Wai of Hong Kong.

"In Korea, people only pay attention if you have a name. I know because I've worked as a prodocer myself. My first film bad to be a low-budget, low-risk project. So I came up with the idea of filming in a single space with few people.

The film was marketed for scandal, which puzzled the public, for Park makes the couplings look desperate rather

THE Spice Girls' Victoria Adams (Posh Spice) was forced to pay British customs £3,000 (\$4,800) for failing

to declare the engagement ring she bought for her fiance,

David Beckham, in the United States. Adams bought the diamond-encrusted gold ring, believed to have cost £50,000, at a Los Angeles jeweler when the Spice Girls were in the United States for the premiere of their film last month. She

then flew to Manchester, where she met up with Beckham, a

Manchester United soccer star. Adams was charged valueadded tax and import duty after customs officials in Manchester airport spotted the ring in photographs of the

couple when they announced their engagement on Jan. 25.

Edward Elgar's last wishes have been ignored and his last,

uncompleted symphony will be played Sunday at the Royal

Festival Hall in London. The composer Anthony Payne com-

mitted what Elgar purists saw as the ultimate sacrilege when he

took on the daunting task of completing Elgar's third symphony.

But Elgar's descendants had given the go-ahead even though the composer had told his daughter Clarice on his deathbed:

'Don't let anyone tinker with it. I think you had better burn it."



A scene from "Motel Cactus," set in a love botel in Seoul, the directorial debut of Park Ki Yong, right.

In "Motel Cactus," there is barely a glimpse of city streets, yet the outside world intrudes on the lovers in the sounds of riot police rounding up demonstrators, cell phones ringing, video cameras whirring, the constant burn of gadgets for grownups. Originally, I wanted to insert shots of empty streets, but once I finished shooting, the film felt heavy and serious enough, so I did vignettes to give more information about the characters.

He shot for 16 days and edited for two months. Doyle's famous touches - the mad camera moving over lovers beneath the shower, tears like waterfalls, artificial waterfalls that sound like sobs, love clinches fierce as death pile on imposing stylistics. "I needed Doyle because he isn't steeped in the conventions of Korean cinema," Park said Ve could dare things together.

For example, we saw after shooting the third episode that the dialogue didn't work. It's a violent confrontation than enticing. "After a year struggling to get financing, a between two people and we needed body language, not talk. So we talked it over with the actors who agreed they would be more comfortable without dialogue. I told Christopher who said, 'Let's do it. Take out the dialogue.' Together, we kept looking for new ways to tell a

In the first sequence, an indolent lover celebrates his girlfriend's birthday with a gandy ice cream cake, tinsel trimmings and balloons. He has also bought a present for himself to distract from the serious business of her expectations, a picture, electrically wired, of a waterfall. He keeps switching on the picture, tuning out on her. The director describes himself

as completely Korean, although there are hints of European influence in his melancholy treatment of couples. "I went to film school and I've been influenced by many directors. My favorite is Kieslowski; when I saw "The Decalogue" in Hong Kong in 1990, I was knocked out. I copied a lot from him in this movie. Bergman, Antonioni Kies-lowski, that's film history."

His next project will be about a married couple trying to find hope. "First I did a movie about sadness, now hope, but if you don't believe in hope, there's no sadness.'

Although raised partly in Switzerland, where his father was a military attaché at the Korean Embassy, the director recalls a childhood overwhelmed by the American presence "I have mixed feelings," be said. "When I grew up, the American military bases were everywhere, and each base was like an American town with bars and girls. That was

Koreans, as if we were a colooy. But we're influenced by the culture, music, films, everything."

Park lives outside Seoul with his wife and children: he bas a sister who lives in Paris and another sister in Los Angeles. Since making "Motel Cactus," he bas traveled to Vanconver, Canada, and Bruges, Belgium, and is on the way to

quite shameful for us, and the way the Americans talked to

Berlin, but he will never leave Korea, he said. "I'm the eldest and I have my parents to take care of. I feel responsible for them - that's very Korean, Before I was 30, I was comfortable traveling; now, after a few weeks away from home, I have trouble with the food. I find myself becoming more and more Korean, like my father.'

Gift to Israel Museum

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Arturo Schwarz, a scholar, poet, art dealer and passionate collector from Milan, has given the Israel Museum in Jerusalem more than 700 Dada and Surrealist artworks that experts say are worth more than \$20 million. The gift includes paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, objects, photographs and

Schwarz has studied, researched and collected this phase of 20th-century art for most of his life. He knew many of its leading artists and has written much about them, especially Marcel Duchamp, whose catalogue raisonné he has worked on for years. First published in 1969, it was reissued in an extensively updated second edition last month.

Highlights from Schwarz's collection include more than 30 works by Duchamp, among them "Tzanck Check," an enlarged handmade check for \$115 that the artist gave his dentist, Daniel Tzanck, as payment for his treatment.

The Schwarz gift has more than 60 works hy Man Ray, including photographs, photomontages, collages and as-semblages, as well as works by Andre Breton, Alexander Calder, Joseph Cornell, Max Ernst, Arshile Gorky, Dora Maar, Joan Miro, Kurt Schwitters and Yves Tanguy.

The Israel Museum, which was founded in 1965, is the largest cultural institution in Israel, with an encyclopedic collection of about 500,000 objects ranging from prehistoric archaeology to contemporary art.

PEOPLE



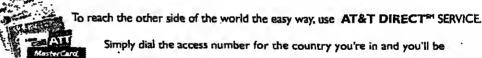
policymakers in Munich, lost its founder and organizer last weekend as Baron Ewald von Kleist, 75, stepped down. A German officer in World War II. Kleist packed explosives under his nunic to attend a medal ceremony at which he expected to kill Hitler in a suicide bombing. The assassination failed when Hitler unexpectedly skipped the session. Kleist, who founded the Werkunde in 1965; will be replaced by Horst Teltschick, a former aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl and now an executive at BMW.

Luciano Pavarotti, who is suffering from hypertension and stress, has dropped a contract to sing at the Vienna Opera next season, officials there said Thursday. The tenor will not appear at the opera house from September until June 1999. Pavarotti earlier had canceled engagements until the end of March, and last month he halted a charity recital Metropolitan Opera in New York after feeling faint.

The original lyrics to "Candle in the Wind 1997," the ballad sung at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, were sold at a benefit auction in Los Angeles for \$400,000. Three

Elgar died at 76 in 1934. Wulstan Atkins, Elgar's godson who pages of handwritten lyrics and a printed final version autois now 92, said Elgar's great-nephews and great-nieces had graphed by the songwriters, Bernie Taupin and Elton John. broken faith with the composer. HUGGABLE - The actress Sharon Stone hugging were sold to the Lund Foundation, a nonprofit group that funds Dustin Hoffman as the two appeared with Peter Coyote programs for disadvantaged children. The money will go to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. The Werkunde conference, an annual think-in for defense at the premiere of their film "Sphere" in Los Angeles.





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